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# STARS AND STRIPES®



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MONDAY, JULY 13, 2020

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## VIRUS OUTBREAK

# Turn for the worst

Long-expected uptick in US pandemic deaths has begun

BY MIKE STOBBE AND NICKY FORSTER  
Associated Press

### NEW YORK

A long-expected upturn in U.S. coronavirus deaths has begun, driven by fatalities in states in the South and West, according to data on the pandemic.

The number of deaths per day from the virus had been falling for months, and even remained down as states like Florida and Texas saw explosions in cases and

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### Inside:

- Trump publicly wears mask for first time during Saturday visit to Walter Reed, Page 8
- Disney World reopens despite Florida hitting 250K cases, Page 8
- "Thought it was a hoax, but it's not": Patient dies after COVID-19 party, Page 7



## BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Games maker Ubisoft shakes up staff amid probe

Associated Press

**PARIS** — French gaming giant Ubisoft is parting ways with its creative director and two other executives and promising zero tolerance for "toxic" staff behavior following an internal investigation of misconduct and media reports of sexual harassment and other workplace abuse.

In a statement Sunday, Ubisoft CEO Yves Guillemot said the developer of "Assassin's Creed" and other games "has fallen short in

its obligation to guarantee a safe and inclusive workplace environment for its employees."

"This is unacceptable, as toxic behaviors are in direct contrast to values on which I have never compromised — and never will," Guillemot said.

Ubisoft announced the immediate resignation of Serge Hascoet as the firm's powerful chief creative officer.

Ubisoft had previously described Hascoet as its "creative leader" whose "unique vision has

infused every game released by the company."

The director of Ubisoft's Canadian studios, Yannis Mallat, is also leaving immediately, because "recent allegations that have come to light in Canada against multiple employees make it impossible for him to continue in this position," the company said.

Guillemot also promised further "profound changes across the company to improve and strengthen our workplace culture."

## MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



## WEATHER OUTLOOK

## MONDAY IN EUROPE



## TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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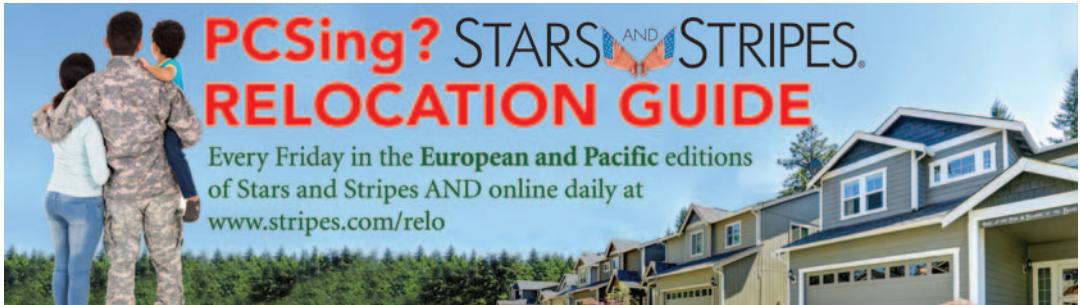
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## EXCHANGE RATES

	Military rate	Commercial rates	Switzerland (Franc).....
Euro (cents) (July 13)	\$1.10	\$1.30	0.9400
Dollar buys (July 13)	€0.8229	€0.8658	Turkish (Lira).....
British pound (July 13)	1.23	1.25	6.8658
Japanese yen (July 13)	105.00	107.00	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, France, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), please contact your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to U.S. dollars, except for the euro, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)
South Korean won (July 13)	1,171.00	1,171.00	
Bahrain (Dinar).....	0.3770	0.3770	
British pound .....	\$1.2637	\$1.2637	
China (Yuan).....	6.9981	6.9981	
Denmark (Krone).....	6.5868	6.5868	
Egypt (Pound).....	15.9902	15.9902	
Hong Kong (Dollar).....	7.7512	7.7512	
Hungary (Forint).....	312.60	312.60	
Iceland (Icelandic Krona).....	314.94	314.94	
Japan (Yen).....	106.71	106.71	
Kuwait (Dinar).....	0.3079	0.3079	
Norway (Krone).....	9.4497	9.4497	
Qatar (Riyal).....	0.44	0.44	
Poland (Zloty).....	3.95	3.95	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal).....	3.7508	3.7508	
Singapore (Dollar).....	1.3911	1.3911	
South Korea (Won).....	1,200.83	1,200.83	

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate .....	0.25
Discount rate .....	0.25
Federal funds market rate .....	0.03
3-month bill .....	0.13
30-year bond .....	1.32

## MILITARY

# Air Force revises appearance requirements

By WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Air Force on Friday announced revisions to its personal appearance requirements in an effort to create a more inclusive and racially sensitive culture for airmen.

The changes to the Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel instructions include "the removal of subjective language and other rules that may have been creating unintentional or unfair barriers for Air and Space Force uniformed members," the service said in a statement.

"As we listened to Airmen and Space Professionals, we re-

viewed our policies and identified language in our dress and appearance instruction that was problematic for certain groups," Lisa Truesdale, Air Force deputy director of military force management policy, said in the statement. "Ensuring inclusive language in our policies is one of the first steps in creating a more inclusive culture where all uniformed members can thrive and maximize their fullest potential."

The revisions, effective immediately, are:

- The term "faddish," in references to "complexion and associated subjectivity," has been removed from the guidelines. Some airmen had complained that the word "faddish" had "resulted

in particular demographics being disproportionately caught up by the enforcement of those rules that included the term," the statement said.

- Name tapes/tags can include diacritical accent and hyphens to provide a more accurate pronunciation of a name — for example, in surnames such as Peña, Lewis-Miles, Müller or Calderón.

- Male airmen are authorized to have "one straight line part (cut, clipped, or shaved) on either side of their head."

- The restriction on height of combat boots has been removed, "acknowledging that some career fields require more flexibility."

- Airmen granted a shaving waiver are given more leeway in

cutting or trimming facial hair, which "allows them to more readily present a neat, clean, and professional image," the statement said.

Last month, the Air Force's surgeon general extended the duration of approvals to five waivers from one year for five if an airman has been diagnosed with pseudofolliculitis barbae, also known as razor bumps. The chronic inflammation of the face — caused and exacerbated by shaving — is most common among African-American men.

In June, the Air Force ordered an independent review of discipline and advancement opportunities in regard to racial disparities.

The still ongoing review is to assess Air Force-specific causal factors like culture and policies, assimilate the analysis and conclusions of previous racial disparity studies by external organizations, and make concrete recommendations resulting in impactful and lasting change."

The review came on the heels of widespread national protests after George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, died while being arrested in Minneapolis on May 25. Video taken by bystanders that went viral showed a police officer kneeling on Floyd's neck for more than 8 minutes as he pleaded for breath.

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## Fort Hood cavalry unit deploying to Europe for Defender exercises

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — A Texas-based unit will deploy on short notice for drills in Germany and Poland, marking the final phase of the Army's Defender-Europe 20 exercises, the service said Friday.

About 550 soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Armored Brigade, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment at Fort Hood will mobilize in an emergency deployment readiness exercise, U.S. Army Europe said in a statement.

The monthlong effort begins Tuesday and involves troops drawing 55 Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles from a storage site in Germany. The vehicles and gear will be moved

to Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area, Poland, where soldiers will test a system designed to protect against anti-tank guided missiles and rocket-propelled grenades.

The Trophy Active Protection System, developed by Israel, protects armored vehicles using "soft kill" measures, such as electronic jamming or smoke grenades to confuse an incoming missile, and pairs it with "hard kill" counterfire options to destroy threats.

"The fielding of Trophy systems provides the U.S. Army's logistics team with the opportunity to assess and experience the dynamics of moving and installing the system in a field environment," USAREUR said.

The 1st Cavalry Division Headquarters (Forward) out of Poznan, Poland, will serve as mission command for the exer-

cise while the 7th Army Training Command out of Grafenwoehr, Germany, will provide exercise control.

The exercise is part of the scaled-down version of Defender-Europe 20, a series of events that was intended to be among the largest Army training efforts on the Continent since the Cold War. However, as the coronavirus took hold in Europe in the spring, many of the activities connected to Defender were canceled because of health concerns.

In June, USAREUR was able to resume some large-scale Defender exercises, including one in Poland that involved 6,000 troops. The point of the Defender series was to demonstrate the military's ability to move large numbers of forces and gear from the U.S. to Europe.



BRIAN K. RAGIN JR./U.S. Army

**A U.S. Army tank maneuvers a trail at Drawsko-Pomorskie Training Area, Poland, in April 2020. Soldiers from 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, out of Fort Hood, Texas, are headed for Poland to participate in a Defender-Europe 20 exercise using Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles.**

Such capabilities have become a priority for the military since reinforcements from the U.S. would be needed in the event of a conflict with Russia.

USAREUR said coronavirus

prevention and mitigation measures will be taken during the upcoming drills, which are slated to last until Aug. 22.

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## Yongsan Garrison's new commander has history on Korean Peninsula

By MATTHEW KEELER  
*Stars and Stripes*

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea — Col. Monica Washington turned over responsibility Friday for this steadily shrinking garrison to a successor with a long history in South Korea.

Once the most populous U.S. military installation in the country, Yongsan, in the heart of the capital city, Seoul, was headquarters for major commands — U.S. Forces Korea, United Nations Command and Eighth Army.

Those numbers dwindled during Washington's two-year tenure, and the command moved 55 miles south to Camp Humphreys as part of an \$11 billion relocation program.

"Her area of responsibility began in 2018 in support of a population of approximately 25,000 and decreased to 13,000 in 2020," said Maj. Gen. Daniel Christian, the Eighth Army's deputy commanding general for sustainment.

The Yongsan commander's responsi-

bility includes camps beyond the city, including training areas near the Demilitarized Zone, the border with North Korea just 28 miles away.

The continuing process of shutting down the installation now falls to Col. Ellis Baker, a Mount Olive, N.C., native, with a string of previous assignments on the peninsula. Between 1998 and 2019, he was posted to Humphreys, Camp Carroll, Camp Stanley, Camp Casey and Yongsan.

"The alliance [between the U.S. and South Korea] is the No. 1 important thing we are doing," Baker said during the change-of-command ceremony. "This strategic opportunity the Army has given me and my family to help foster that as we give back the historic site to [South Korea] and all the significance that entails as we set conditions for our shared future is something that I look forward to greatly."

He was accompanied Friday by his spouse, Jinwha Lee, and their 5-month-old daughter.

"This is my second home," Baker said. "I do love Korea."

The handover, with coronavirus safety measures included, took place at the Collier Community Fitness Center on Yongsan.

The Army is steadily shutting down services throughout the garrison in preparation for returning the property to the South Korean government.

Yongsan continues to support thousands of service members, Defense Department civilians, U.S. Embassy staff, contractors, retirees and their family members.

Washington is headed for the Pentagon as executive officer for the Army assistant chief of staff, G9, Installations.

"Today is a day of mixed emotions," she said during the ceremony. "One part of me is excited about the next step in my journey, while a big part of me wants to stay and continue our efforts to return the historic Yongsan to [South Korea]."

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MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes  
**Col. Ellis Baker, the new commander of U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan-Casey, attends his change-of-command ceremony on the base in Seoul, South Korea, on Friday.**

## MILITARY

# Trump confirms 2018 cyberattack on Russia

BY ELLEN NAKASHIMA  
*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has acknowledged in an interview with a Washington Post columnist that he ordered a clandestine military cyberstrike against Russian trolls in 2018 to disrupt their Internet access during the midterm elections.

Asked by columnist Marc Thiessen whether he had authorized the operation, Trump said "Correct," according to a piece posted Friday.

Until now, neither the White House nor the Pentagon had publicly confirmed the operation, which had been classified.

Trump sought to frame his action as an example of being more aggressive than his predecessor in countering the Kremlin. President Barack Obama, he said, "knew before the [2016] election that Russia was playing around. Or he was told. Whether or not it was so or not, who knows? And he said nothing."

In fact, the Obama administration publicly called out Moscow

in October 2016 for its hacking of Democratic computers, and Obama directly raised the matter with Russian President Vladimir Putin. In December of that year, Obama imposed sanctions on Russia over its interference in the presidential election.

Still, the admission is a rare instance of Trump acknowledging that Russia had malign intent with respect to American democracy. He even seemed to brag about his role in deterring such efforts.

"Look, we stopped it," the pres-

ident told Thiessen.

The admission comes as U.S. intelligence officials have warned that Russia will seek to disrupt this year's presidential election.

For the most part, Trump has avoided acknowledging such warnings, and that Russia has sought to sow discord in the United States, even siding with Putin in his denial that Moscow interfered in the 2016 presidential elections — despite his intelligence agencies' conclusion to the contrary.

The Washington Post last year

reported on the U.S. Cyber Command operation against the Internet Research Agency in St. Petersburg, a company underwritten by an oligarch close to Putin. IRA trolls were active during the 2016 campaign, posing as Americans to post material online in an effort to stoke conflict by exploiting racial and other societal tensions.

The operation was part of the first offensive cybercampaign against Russia designed to thwart attempts to interfere with a U.S. election, officials told The Post

## State Department OKs sale of F-35 fighters to Japan worth over \$23B

BY SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO — The State Department has approved a potential \$23.11 billion sale of 105 F-35 Lightning II stealth fighters to Japan, according to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency.

"It is vital to U.S. national interest to assist Japan in developing and maintaining a strong and effective self-defense capability," said an agency notice to Congress on Thursday about the possible sale.

Japan already operates a squadron of 14 F-35A fighters capable of conventional takeoffs and landings at Misawa Air Base in the country's northeast and has 28 more on the way.

The country has asked to buy another 65 F-35As and 42 F-35Bs — the short-takeoff and vertical-landing versions of the aircraft — the agency said.

The Japan Air Self-Defense Force's F-4 Phantom II aircraft are being decommissioned as F-35s are added, the agency said.

"Japan will have no difficulty absorbing these aircraft into its armed forces," it said.

Nutabaru Air Base in Shintomi, Miyazaki prefecture, is a possible base for the F-35B, according to a Japan News/Yomiuri report published in February 2018.

The multirole aircraft could

operate from relatively short commercial runways on remote islands, the outlets reported.

Japan's Defense Ministry in August requested the equivalent of about \$29 million, to repair and upgrade the helicopter destroyer JS Izumo by installing guide lights and improving the heat-tolerance of the carrier's flight deck to accommodate F-35Bs.

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121, which has flown F-35Bs out of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, since January 2017, demonstrated the jets' ability to fly from an amphibious ship near Japan in March 2018 when a detachment operated from the amphibious-assault ship USS Wasp, at the time based at Sasebo Naval Base in southern Japan.

Japan's latest F-35 order would include 110 Pratt & Whitney F135 engines, electronic warfare systems, computers, navigation and communications equipment, software, tools and various other equipment associated with the aircraft, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency said in its statement.

Defense contractors Lockheed Martin, whose Fort Worth, Texas, plant developed the F-35, and Pratt & Whitney, of East Hartford, Conn., will fill the order, according to the agency statement.

Stars and Stripes reporter Aya Ichihashi contributed to this report.

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DEANA HEITZMAN/U.S. Air Force

The Japan Air Self-Defense Force's first F-35A stealth fighter arrives at Misawa Air Base, Japan, on Jan. 26, 2018.



A mourner pays his respects at the mortuary of the late South Korean army Gen. Paik Sun-yup at Asan Medical Center in Seoul, South Korea, on Saturday.

Kim In-chul, Yonhap/AP

## South Korean war hero dies at 99

BY KIM GAMBEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — Paik Sun-yup, South Korea's first four-star general who as a young officer led his troops to victory in several battles in the 1950-53 Korean War, has died. He was 99.

He died Friday, according to the defense ministry. No cause was given.

Paik's biography mirrored that of modern Korea. He was born in 1920 near what would become the North Korean capital of Pyongyang and began his military career at a Japanese military academy in the puppet state of Manchuria when the peninsula was under colonial rule.

Paik returned home after World War II and joined the military in the U.S.-controlled South after the peninsula was liberated from the Japanese and divided into spheres of influence, with a communist was under colonial rule.

He commanded the 1st Infantry Division when the war began with a North Korean invasion across the 38th Parallel on June 25, 1950.

After the allies suffered crushing losses, Paik's division helped shift momentum in favor of the U.S.-led United Nations force by defending a southern perimeter at the mid-August battle of Tabu-

dong, also known as the "Bowling Alley."

In a memoir, Paik described a pivotal moment when one of his battalions began retreating from a ridge under attack, exposing the flank of the Army's 27th Infantry Regiment commanded by Col. John Michaelis, who said he would be forced to withdraw.

Paik convinced his American counterpart to hold off and managed to inspire his retreating soldiers to return. "We are going to turn around and kick the enemy off our ridge and I shall be at the front. If I turn back, shoot me," he recalled saying in "From Pusan to Panmunjom."

His division led a successful drive north and was the first to enter Pyongyang in October during an effort to win the war that was halted by the intervention of Chinese forces.

In 1951, as a major general, Paik led a massive effort to clear South Korea of insurgents in an operation called "Rat Killer," according to military histories.

The war ended on July 27, 1953, with an armistice in lieu of a peace treaty, paving the way for the continued presence of thousands of American troops in South Korea.

Paik was one of the U.N. repre-

sentatives to the armistice talks and eventually became chairman

of the joint chiefs of staff before retiring from the military in 1960.

In his later years, Paik served as transportation minister and the South Korean ambassador to Taiwan, France and Canada.

Paik continued to enjoy close relations with the U.S. military, which named him an honorary Eighth Army commander in 2013 and has a display honoring his service at its headquarters on Camp Humphreys.

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — USFK commander Gen. Robert Abrams offered condolences Saturday, saying Paik would frequently visit the command and speak with American and South Korean troops about the war.

"He made an incredible contribution shaping the U.S. and (South Korean) alliance into what it is today," Abrams said in a statement. "General Paik is a hero and national treasure who will be truly missed."

Paik's career was not without controversy. Critics have continued to speak out against his colonial-era participation in Japanese military operations to stamp out Korean independence fighters.

A funeral was planned for Wednesday. Paik is to be buried at the national cemetery in Daegu, officials said.

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# WAR/MILITARY



SERGEI GRIKS/AP

**Local residents receive humanitarian aid from the Russian military in the town of Al-Rastan, Syria, on Aug. 15, 2018. The U.N. Security Council was forced to approve limiting aid to Syria's rebel-held area to just one crossing.**

## UN approves aid to Syria's rebel area through just one crossing

BY EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Russia scored a victory for its ally Syria on Saturday by forcing the Security Council to limit humanitarian aid deliveries to the country's mainly rebel-held northwest to just one crossing point from Turkey, a move that Western nations say will cut a lifeline for 1.3 million people.

Russia argues that aid should be delivered from within the country across conflict lines, and says only one crossing point is needed.

U.N. officials and humanitarian groups argued unsuccessfully — along with the vast majority of the U.N. Security Council — that the two crossing points in operation until their mandate expired Friday were essential for getting help to millions of needy people in Syria's northwest, especially with the first case of COVID-19 recently reported in the region.

The Security Council vote ap-

proved a single crossing from

Turkey was 12-0, with Russia, China and the Dominican Republic abstaining.

The vote capped a week of high-stakes rivalry pitting Russia and China against the 13 other council members. An overwhelming majority voted twice to maintain the two crossings from Turkey, but Russia and China vetoed both resolutions — the 15th and 16th veto by Russia of a Syria resolution since the conflict began in 2011 and the ninth and 10th by China.

Germany and Belgium, which had sponsored the widely supported resolutions for two crossing points, finally had to back down to the threat of another Russian veto. The resolution they put forward Saturday authorized only a single crossing point from Turkey for a year.

In January, Russia also scored a victory for Syria, using its veto threat to force the Security Council to adopt a resolution reducing the number of crossing points for aid deliveries from four to two, from Turkey to the northwest. It

also cut in half the yearlong mandate that had been in place since cross-border deliveries began in 2014 to six months.

Russia's deputy U.N. ambassador, Dmitry Polyansky, said after the vote that from the beginning Moscow had proposed one crossing — from Bab al-Hawa to Idlib — and that Saturday's resolution could have been adopted weeks ago. He said Russia abstained in the vote because negotiations over the resolution were marred by "clumsiness, respect."

Polyansky accused Western nations on the council of "unprecedented heights" of hypocrisy, saying they were ready to jeopardize cross-border aid over the references to unilateral sanctions.

He said cross-border aid to Syria's northwest doesn't comply with international law because the U.N. has no presence in the region, which he described as being controlled "by international terrorists and fighters" that make it impossible to control and monitor who gets aid.

## Roadside bomb kills 6 Afghan civilians

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — At least six civilians, including women and children, were killed when the vehicle they were traveling in hit a roadside bomb in eastern Afghanistan, a provincial official said Saturday.

Wahidullah Jamazada, spokesman for the governor of Ghazni province, said eight other civilians were wounded in the afternoon attack in the Jaghuti district.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but Jamazada blamed Taliban insurgents who are active in the province.

Last Wednesday, in an attack by Taliban insurgents, a roadside bombing in the same province tar-

geted and killed a district police chief and his two bodyguards in the Dayak district.

Habibullah, who like many Afghans uses only one name, was inspecting checkpoints early in the morning when the attack happened.

Separately, the Defense Ministry said Afghan soldiers repelled Taliban attacks Friday at army checkpoints in the district of Azra in eastern Logar province. The statement said at least eight Taliban fighters were killed and four others wounded.

The Taliban and Afghan national forces have been trading blame over a recent surge in attacks across the country — even as efforts press on to try and bring about the start of direct peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban.

# Ramstein airman found guilty in 2019 road death

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — A Ramstein airman was found guilty in a court-martial Saturday of negligent homicide for the death of a German teenager in a 2019 car crash.

Military jurors stripped Toman Roman Bahena, 21, of two ranks — from airman first class to airman basic — and ordered him to perform three months of hard labor without confinement. He'll be reprimanded and restricted to Ramstein and the Vogelweh housing area for four months.

But the jury did not end Roman Bahena's military career or mandate jail time for an offense that allows a maximum prison sentence of three years and a bad-conduct discharge. Court members acquitted Roman Bahena of four other charges including involuntary manslaughter, which carries a sentence of up to 10 years in prison.

The jury reached a verdict and a sentence Saturday, following five days of testimony centered around the Feb. 6, 2019, collision on a country road near Ramstein.

Roman Bahena was found to be traveling at an excessive speed in his Chevrolet Camaro on the L367 when he slammed almost head-on into a Piaggio Ape driven by David Wirsching, 17, of Weilerbach, who died instantly.

Neither driver was found to have alcohol or narcotics in their systems.

Roman Bahena was new to the Air Force and to Germany, receiving what he described as a dream overseas assignment after basic training.

On the evening of the crash, Roman Bahena and his wife were driving from Weilerbach to Vogelweh when they took a wrong turn, according to court testimony. They ended up traveling towards the village of Mackenbach on the L367, a two-lane priority road.

Witnesses described how Roman Bahena passed one vehicle and then failed to return to his lane. Data extracted from the airman's Camaro showed he was driving nearly 84 mph — more than 20 mph over the speed limit — seconds before the crash. He did not take his foot off the gas pedal until 1.5 seconds before the collision, an expert for the government testified.

The Camaro and Piaggio collided near the road's center line, evidence at the scene showed and witnesses said. The force of the crash sent the Piaggio airborne and onto a car traveling behind it.

Wirsching was on his way to Kaiserslautern with his best friend, who was following behind on Wirsching's motorcycle.

The Piaggio is a three-wheeled light commercial vehicle with a Vespa scooter as a base. It travels at a maximum of 40 mph, so a line of vehicles was trailing the boys as they drove towards Kaiserslautern, witnesses said.

The airman did not testify and it wasn't clear why he didn't return to his lane before the crash, though a few possibilities were mentioned.

A defense expert said it could have been an "error of perception." The small, closer-set width of the Piaggio's headlights may have made it seem the vehicle was farther away than it was.

Testimony also suggested that Roman Bahena may have been confused as to the type of roadway he was driving on. After the crash, he asked another driver if the road was an autobahn for one- or two-way traffic, according to testimony.

"Some tragic accidents are just that — just accidents. This is one such case," defense counsel Maj. Casey Groher said.

Prosecutors said Roman Bahena was not paying attention and wanted to drive fast in his Camaro.

Roman Bahena expressed condolences in court to the Wirsching family, who sat in the courtroom throughout the duration of the trial.

"Not a day goes by that I don't wish I could go back in time and change what happened," he said. "My only hope is that your hearts one day find peace."

Since the crash, Roman Bahena has excelled in his duties at Ramstein with the 86th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, those who work with him tested.

During the sentencing phase, Miriam Wirsching described her big brother as loving, caring, always happy, "a ray of sunshine," who was passionate about music and motorcycles.

Wirsching's parents described the immense pain of losing their only son.

Hans-Joachim Wirsching said his wife spends countless hours caring for their son's memorial and gravesite and helping their two daughters cope.

"And I, I am standing here to give a statement about a dead son," Wirsching said to court members. "This will clutch at my heart until the end of my days."

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## VIRUS OUTBREAK

# US arrivals boost case numbers at some Europe bases

BY JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — Coronavirus case numbers have risen slightly at the Army garrison in Stuttgart and elsewhere in Europe because of personnel arriving from the United States, where new cases have skyrocketed in recent weeks.

There were some new cases over the past two weeks, said garrison commander Col. Jason Condrey, whose comments were in line with a Pentagon policy that prevents local commands from reporting precise totals, but allows leaders to speak in general terms.

"With only one exception, the common trend among all of them is travel to the U.S. and back or from the United States," Condrey said during a Thursday virtual town hall meeting.

"That trend has also been the same as I talk to my peers across

## VIRUS OUTBREAK

# Okinawa Marines go on lockdown after cases spike

By DAVE ORNAUER  
AND AYA ICHIHASHI  
*Stars and Stripes*

URUMA, Okinawa — Marine bases on Okinawa went on lockdown over the weekend in response to "clusters" of coronavirus infections there, according to Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

After months with no confirmed cases on the island, "this week the Marine Corps experienced two localized clusters of individuals who tested positive for the virus," the command announced on its Facebook page Saturday evening.

Personnel at Camp Hansen and Marine Corps Air Station Futenma were placed on "soft shelter-in-place" orders, according to the post. Only essential personnel are allowed to come and go from those facilities while authorities work to mitigate the virus' spread.

"All personnel who tested positive for COVID-19 are in isolation," the statement said, using the term for the respiratory disease caused by the virus. Cleaning teams and contact tracers were also put to work.

Lockdowns were initially enforced at MCAS Futenma on Tuesday evening and at Camp Hansen overnight Wednesday and Thursday after an undisclosed number of U.S. personnel tested positive there.

Prefectural officials said they could say only that a "few dozen" cases had been found recently because the U.S. military asked that the exact number not be released, according to The Associated Press.

The AP reported Sunday that Okinawan officials reported 61 cases — 38 of them at Futenma, and another 23 at Camp Hansen

— since July 7.

The disclosure of the exact figures came only after Okinawa's repeated requests to the U.S. military, the AP reported.

Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki, speaking to reporters on Saturday evening, used the term "several dozen."

"It is very regrettable that many new cases happened," he said during the news conference. "I cannot stop wondering whether the U.S. military's prevention measures for the coronavirus were effective."

Marine Forces Japan on Friday heightened its health protection condition from a moderate to a substantial risk of the virus' spread. In military terms, the level moved from Bravo to Charlie.

Meanwhile, U.S. Forces Japan extended a public health emergency through Aug. 13 that had been slated to expire after the weekend.

Late Saturday, Marine Forces Japan issued updated anti-coronavirus restrictions that require O-5 approval for most off-base activities, including doctor visits. Only travel to and from an off-base residence and an installation is allowed. The rules apply to all Marine personnel, including dependents, civilians and contractors, on the island.

Kadena Air Base has restricted travel to MCAS Futenma, Camp Hansen and Camp Kinser to official business only. Trips to other Marine bases on the islands should be minimized to the greatest extent possible, the 18th Wing said Sunday on its Facebook page.

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said she made the case public to make younger people aware that they are not immune.

"It doesn't discriminate, and none of us are invincible," she said. "This virus is very serious and can spread easily."

"COVID parties" are get-togethers involving a person who has been diagnosed with the coronavirus, with attendees supposedly gathering as a dare. Whether such parties actually exist has been questioned, but "the thought is to see if the virus is real and to see if anyone gets infected," Appleby said.

Appleby, chief medical officer of the city's Methodist Hospital,



Jeff CHIU/AP

A woman wears a face mask while riding a scooter Saturday past lanterns hanging in Chinatown in San Francisco.

## Uptick: Experts say rise in virus death toll may not reach soaring count in spring time

### FROM FRONT PAGE

hospitalizations — and reported daily U.S. infections broke records several times in recent days.

Scientists warned it wouldn't last. A coronavirus death, when occurs, typically comes several weeks after a person is first infected. And experts predicted states that saw increases in cases and hospitalizations would, at some point, see deaths rise too. Now that's happening.

"It's consistently picking up. And it's picking up at the time you'd expect it to," said William Hanage, a Harvard University infectious diseases researcher.

According to an Associated Press analysis of data from Johns Hopkins University, the seven-day rolling average for daily reported deaths in the U.S. has increased from 578 two weeks ago to 664 on July 10 — still well below the heights hit in April. Daily reported deaths increased in 27 states over that period, but the majority of those states

are averaging under 15 new deaths per day. A smaller group of states has been driving the nationwide increase in deaths.

California is averaging 91 reported deaths per day while Texas is close behind with 66, but Florida, Arizona, Illinois, New Jersey and South Carolina also saw sizable rises. New Jersey's recent jump is thought to be partially attributable to its less frequent reporting of probable deaths.

The impact has already been felt by families who lost kin — and by the health care workers who tried to save them.

Rubias Ruiz, a Miami intensive care unit nurse, recently broke down at a table during a birthday dinner with his wife and daughter. He said he was overcome by the number of patients who have died in his care.

"I counted like 10 patients in less than four days in our ICU and then I stopped doing that because there were so many," said the 41-year-old nurse at Kendall Regional Medical Center who lost another patient Monday.

The virus has killed more than 130,000 people in the U.S. and more than a half-million worldwide, according to Johns Hopkins University, though the true numbers are believed to be higher.

Researchers now expect deaths to rise for at least some weeks, but some think the count probably will not go up as dramatically as it did in the spring — for several reasons.

First, testing was extremely limited early in the pandemic, and it's become clear that unrecognized infections were spreading on subways, in nursing homes and in other public places before anyone knew exactly what was going on. Now testing is more widespread, and the magnitude of outbreaks is becoming better understood.

Second, many people's health behaviors have changed, with mask-wearing becoming more common in some places. Although there is no vaccine yet, hospitals are also getting better at treating patients.

## Texas patient death linked to 'COVID party' attendance

By MARC RAMIREZ  
*The Dallas Morning News*

DALLAS — A 30-something patient has died from the coronavirus after reportedly attending a "COVID party" and ultimately telling their nurse they had acted in error, San Antonio's WOAI-TV reported.

"Just before the patient died, they looked at their nurse and said, 'I think I made a mistake, I thought this was a hoax, but it's not,'" Dr. Jane Appleby said in a video posted by the news station.

Appleby, chief medical officer of the city's Methodist Hospital,

## Troop tests positive after arriving in Guam

*Stars and Stripes*

A U.S. service member who arrived Saturday at Andersen Air Force Base via a government-contracted flight is infected with the coronavirus, according to a statement from the Guam governor's office.

Neither the service member nor the service branch involved was identified; the person was tested days before leaving Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Wash., and displayed no symptoms, according to the statement.

"Officials at Andersen AFB

were notified of the positive test result while the flight was en route to Guam," the statement said.

After arriving at Andersen, the service member was isolated and all other military and civilian passengers aboard the flight were quarantined in Defense Department facilities, according to the statement.

Guam government and Defense Department rules call for the passengers to be quarantined a minimum 14 days.

"Military public health investigators are currently conduct-

ing contact tracing to determine where this member may have contracted the virus," the statement said.

As of Saturday, Guam had recorded 312 confirmed coronavirus cases, with five deaths, according to the Guam governor's office. So far, 202 have been released from isolation, and 105 cases are still active.

Of those cases, 266 are classified as civilians and 46 are military service members, according to the statement.

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## VIRUS OUTBREAK

# Fla. virus cases surge, hit new single-day record

BY TAMARA LUSH  
AND TERRY SPENCER  
*Associated Press*

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Florida shattered the national record Sunday for the largest single-day increase in positive coronavirus cases in any state since the beginning of the pandemic, adding more than 15,000 cases as its daily average death toll continued to also rise.

According to state Department of Health statistics, 15,299 people tested positive, for a total of 269,811 cases, and 45 deaths were recorded.

California had the previous

record of daily positive cases — 11,694, set on Wednesday, New York had 11,571 on April 15.

The numbers came at the end of a grim record-breaking week as Florida reported 514 fatalities and an average of 73 per day. Three weeks ago, the state was averaging 30 deaths per day. Since the pandemic began in March, 4,346 people have died in Florida of COVID-19, the state says.

Testing has doubled over the last month, going from about 25,000 tests per day to almost 50,000, but the percentage of people testing positive has risen even more dramatically. A month ago, fewer than 5% of tests came up

positive on a daily average. Over the past week, the daily average exceeded 10%.

About 10.7% of Saturday's 143,000 tests came up positive. "I still think we need to increase our testing a little bit more," said University of Florida epidemiologist Dr. Cindy Prins, adding that the state and local health departments should ramp up their contact tracing.

Prins said that she's still concerned about large crowds, gyms and some restaurants as being places of mass transmission. Reports of illegal clubs and raves in South Florida is also a worry, she said.

"I really do think we could control this, and it's the human element that is so critical. It should be an effort of our country. We should be pulling together when we're in a crisis and we're definitely not doing it," she said. "I know people want to live their lives. There have been a lot of other times people have made those sacrifices in order to benefit our society. It's almost like a war effort. That's what we need right now."

Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez told CNN on Sunday that his county's hospitals will soon reach capacity but he said more beds can be added, including for intensive care.

"We still have capacity, but it does cause me a lot of concern," he said.

Throughout May and into June, the state reopened much of its economy with some restrictions — and the number of positive cases began rising, but it wasn't until the last week that the daily death total began rising, too.

Because of the increase in cases and the positivity rate, doctors have predicted a rise in deaths, saying the mortality rate usually increases two to four weeks later as some of those infected get sick and eventually die.

## Masks, social distancing new normal as Disney parks reopen

BY GABRIELLA RUSSON  
AND DEWAYNE BEVEL  
*Orlando Sentinel*

ORLANDO, Fla. — Gary Semel's hands trembled in anticipation of the moment he had awaited for four months.

Finally, he could kneel down in front of Cinderella Castle at Walt Disney World to propose to his girlfriend of two years, Tia Lovett, 50. They kissed, face mask to face mask, a love story in historic times, while a Disney photographer captured the moment.

"I wanted to do it at Disney, and then it closed. I've been waiting very impatiently," said Semel, 49, turning to his future wife. "I'm sorry that I took so long. I really wanted to do it here."

For the Jacksonville couple and many others, the return of Disney World on Saturday was a jubilant celebration. But the day brought only light crowds to the Magic Kingdom, which opened to the general public in tandem with Animal Kingdom.

Epcot and Hollywood Studios

will open Wednesday as Disney's Orlando empire returns a month after Universal Orlando and SeaWorld.

When asked why Disney was opening now, executive Josh D'Amato responded, "We are in a new normal right now, so what's happening outside of the gates of Walt Disney World is our new world."

"We were one of the first theme parks to close, and we'll be about the last to open," he told CNN. "And we spent every minute of every day thinking about how to operate in this new normal that we're in."

At the Magic Kingdom, all Disney employees wore face coverings, and workers with high contact with guests, such as ride operators, were equipped with clear face shields as well.

Most visitors seemed to be obeying the required mask rule Saturday as well as markers meant to keep them 6 feet apart. Employees were observed enforcing the requirements.

"We're encouraged by our guests' overwhelmingly positive feedback for our phased reopening and are grateful for their support of the new measures we've added," Disney spokeswoman Adriana Finger said in a statement.

Throughout most of the day, the most popular attractions posted 30-minute wait times or less, moving considerably faster than the sometimes hourslong lines of last year. A trip on Space Mountain had a 15-minute queue by afternoon.

The biggest issues appeared to be early Saturday as the first guests arrived to face a long line for guest relations, apparently because of problems with electronic tickets.

"This is not good," said theme park journalist Carlye Wisel, depicting the moment on her social media account and calling it proof some things were working and others were not.

For Disney and the other parks, coronavirus will be a long-term problem for the industry, warned



JOE BURBANK, ORLANDO SENTINEL/AP

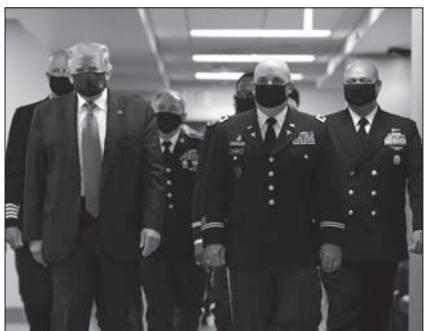
Guests wear masks as required to attend the official reopening day of the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World Saturday in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Dennis Speigel, who runs Ohio-based International Theme Park Services.

The virus ruined Orlando's spring break. It's already hitting the lucrative summer season, too, with no fireworks shot off for huge crowds on the Fourth of July or any day, for that matter, since

mid-March at Disney.

"I'm thinking based on where we are right now, reading the tea leaves, Halloween is a serious question," Speigel said. "We're going to be dealing with this (virus) this time next year, no question about it. This is with us for two years, easily."



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

President Donald Trump wears a face mask Saturday as he walks down a hallway during a visit to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

## Trump wears mask for military hospital visit

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump wore a mask during a visit to a military hospital Saturday, the first time the president has been seen in public with the type of facial covering recommended by health officials as a precaution against spreading or becoming infected by the novel coronavirus.

Trump flew by helicopter to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in suburban Washington to meet wounded service members and health care providers caring for COVID-19 patients. As he left the White House, he told reporters: "When you're in a hospital, especially ... I think it's a great thing to wear a mask."

Trump was wearing a mask

in Walter Reed's hallway as he began his visit. He was not wearing one when he stepped off the helicopter at the facility.

The president was a latecomer to wearing a mask during the pandemic, which has raged across the U.S. since March and infected more than 3.2 million and killed at least 134,000. Most prominent Republicans, including Vice President Mike Pence, endorsed wearing masks as the coronavirus gained ground this summer.

Republican governors have been moving toward requiring or encouraging the use of masks as the pandemic has grown more serious in some states in the South and West.

Trump, however, has declined to wear a mask at news conferences, coronavirus task force updates, rallies and other public

events. People close to him have told The Associated Press that the president feared a mask would make him look weak and was concerned that it shifted focus to the public health crisis rather than the economic recovery. They spoke on condition of anonymity to describe private matters.

Questions remain whether Trump will wear a mask with any regularity.

The wearing of masks became another political dividing line, with Republicans more resistant to wearing them than Democrats. Few masks were seen at recent Trump campaign events in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Phoenix and South Dakota's Mount Rushmore.

The only time Trump has been known to wear a mask was during a private part of a tour of a Ford plant in Michigan.

## VIRUS OUTBREAK

# Surge in Eastern Europe leads to new restrictions

Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary — Countries in Eastern Europe are facing rising waves of coronavirus infections, leading to riots in Serbia, mandatory face masks in Croatia and travel bans or quarantines imposed by Hungary.

The new restrictions come as the World Health Organization reports that daily global infections hit over 228,000 last week, and the U.S. confirmed over 66,600 new cases on Friday, another record, according to Johns Hopkins University.

Virus deaths are rising in the U.S., especially in the South and West, with the seven-day rolling daily average increasing from 578 two weeks ago to 664 on Friday — still well below the heights hit in April — according to an Associated Press analysis of data from Johns Hopkins. Daily infection records were hit at least

six states.

"It's consistently picking up. And it's picking up at the time you'd expect it to," said William Hodge, a Harvard University infectious diseases researcher.

Researchers expect U.S. deaths to rise for weeks, but some think the count will not go up as dramatically as it did in the spring.

Hungarian authorities said Sunday they have sorted countries into three categories — red, yellow and green — based on their rates of new coronavirus infections — and will impose restrictions, including entry bans and mandatory quarantines, depending on which country people are arriving from.

"We see worrisome signs about an increase in the number of cases in the neighboring countries, Europe and the whole world," said Gergely Gulyas, Prime Minister Viktor Orban's chief of staff. "Now, we have to protect our own security and pre-



ALVARO BARRENTOS/AP

Inigo Urkullo, Basque Lehendakari or Regional President, right, wears a face mask as protection against the coronavirus while voting in a polling station during Basque regional elections in the village of Durango, northern Spain, on Sunday.

vented the virus from being brought in from abroad."

Serbia reported 287 new infections Sunday, although there have been increasing doubts about the accuracy of the figures. Officially, the country has over 18,000 confirmed infections and 382 deaths since March. Health authorities are warning that Serbian hospitals are almost full due to the latest surge. Sunday's report of 11 coronavirus deaths was the

country's second-highest daily death toll.

Romania announced a record-high number of infections Saturday, with 698, while 456 new cases were reported Sunday.

In Bulgaria, authorities reintroduced restrictions lifted a few weeks ago because of a new surge in cases.

After confirming a record 330 new cases on Friday, Bulgaria reported 208 cases both Saturday

and Sunday. So far, the country has registered 3,597 cases and 267 deaths.

Albania also has seen a significant increase in infections since mid-May, when it eased lockdown measures. The Balkan nation reported 93 new cases, over twice as many as the highest daily figures in March and April, and the health ministry called the situation at the main infectious disease hospital "grave."

## Doctors: Virus spread, not politics, should guide schools



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

Des Moines Public Schools custodian Cynthia Adams cleans a desk in a classroom at Brubaker Elementary School on Wednesday in Des Moines, Iowa.

BY LINDSEY TANNER  
Associated Press

As the Trump administration pushes full steam ahead to force schools to resume in-person education, public health experts warn that a one-size-fits-all reopening could drive infection and death rates even higher.

They're urging a more cautious approach, which many local governments and school districts are already pursuing.

There are too many uncertainties and variables, they say, for back-to-school to be back-to-normal.

Where is the virus spreading rapidly? Do students live with aged grandparents? Do teachers have high-risk health conditions that would make online teaching safest? Do infected children easily spread COVID-19 to each other

and to adults?

Regarding the latter, some evidence suggests they don't, but a big government study aims to find better proof. Results won't be available before the fall, and some schools are slated to reopen in just a few weeks.

"These are complicated issues. You can't just charge straight ahead," Dr. Tom Frieden, former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said Wednesday during an online briefing.

Children infected with coronavirus are more likely than adults to have mild illnesses, but their risk for severe disease and death isn't zero. While a virus-linked inflammatory condition is uncommon, most children who develop it require intensive care, and a few have died. Doctors don't know which children are at risk.

"The single most important thing we can do to keep our schools safe has nothing to do with what happens in school. It's how well we control COVID-19 in the community," Frieden said. "Right now there are places around the country where the virus is spreading explosively and it would be difficult if not impossible to operate schools safely until the virus is under better control."

Dr. Emily Landon, a University of Chicago infectious disease specialist, is helping the university and a campus PreK-12 school decide how to reopen safely.

"Things are evolving from, 'We can't do it unless it's perfectly safe' to more of a harm reduction model, with the caveat that you can always step back" if virus activity flares, Landon said.

## South Africa mulls return to strict restrictions as cases climb

By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME  
AND ANDREW MELDRUM  
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — Confronted by surging hospitalizations due to COVID-19, South Africa is considering a return to tighter restrictions to combat the disease, which officials say may soon overwhelm the country's health system.

President Cyril Ramaphosa announced he would speak to the nation about the crisis Sunday evening after top health officials warned of shortages of hospital beds and medical oxygen.

South Africa's rapid increase in reported cases has made it one of the world's centers for COVID-19, as it is ranked as the ninth country most affected by the disease, according to Johns Hop-

kins University. The country has reported increases of more than 10,000 confirmed cases for several days and the latest daily increase was nearly 13,500. South Africa accounts for 40% of all the confirmed cases in Africa, with 264,184, including 3,971 deaths, according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Sunday.

South Africa imposed one of

the world's strictest lockdowns in April and May, including closing virtually all mines, factories and businesses, and a ban on sales of liquor and cigarettes.

In June the country began relaxing restrictions to allow millions of South Africans to return to work. However, within a few weeks, the country's numbers of confirmed cases and hospitalizations increased dramatically.

In his speech Sunday, Ramaphosa was expected to announce whether his government will reimpose some strict lockdown regulations in Gauteng, where officials are concerned that the province's hospitals could soon be overwhelmed. Some top Gauteng officials have urged the government to reinstate restrictions, including limitations on the sale of alcohol and restrictions on movements.

## NATION



LAURIE SKRIVAN, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/AP

**Armed homeowners Mark and Patricia McCloskey, standing in front of their house, confront protesters marching to St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson's house in the Central West End of St. Louis.**

## Police execute search warrant at home of gun-toting couple

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Authorities executed a search warrant at the St. Louis mansion of a white couple whose armed defense of their home during a recent racial injustice protest drew widespread attention, their attorney confirmed Saturday.

Mark and Patricia McCloskey, who are personal injury lawyers, were caught on video brandishing guns as demonstrators walked past their Renaissance palazzo-style home June 28 heading to protests outside the mayor's home nearby. The video showed Mark McCloskey, 61, wielding a long-barreled gun and Patricia McCloskey, 63, standing next to him while waving a handgun.

Joel Schwartz, the couple's lawyer, said a search warrant was served Friday evening and that the gun Mark McCloskey was holding in the video was seized. Schwartz told The Associated Press that arrangements have been made to turn over the gun that Patricia McCloskey had been holding to authorities, adding that her gun was inoperable at the time of the protest and still is.

The couple has not been

charged, and Schwartz said he was "absolutely, positively unmerited."

"A search warrant being executed is clear indication of what the circuit attorney's intentions are," Schwartz said. "Beyond that, I can't comment."

Circuit Attorney Kimberly Gardner, who is St. Louis' top prosecutor, issued a statement after the June 28 incident in which she said she was "alarmed" by what happened and that "any attempt to chill (the right to peacefully protest) through intimidation or threat of deadly force will not be tolerated." Calls to Gardner's office Saturday ran unanswered.

Schwartz said that under Missouri law, people who are in reasonable apprehension or fear have the right to take necessary steps to defend themselves.

"In this particular situation, people not only broke the law and trespassed on private property, but they committed property damage," Schwartz said, adding that a St. Louis business was burned down and a retired police captain was killed in the week leading up to the confrontation.

Meanwhile, the St. Louis Post-

Dispatch reported Saturday that public records and interviews show the McCloskeys are almost always in conflict with others, typically over property control.

They filed a lawsuit in 1988 to obtain their house, a castle built for Adolphus Busch's daughter and her husband in the early 20th century. At the McCloskeys' property in Franklin County, they have sued neighbors for making changes to a gravel road and twice-convicted tenants from a modular home on their property.

Mark McCloskey sued a former employer for wrongful termination and his sister, father and his father's caretaker for defamation.

The McCloskeys and the trustees of Portland Place, the tony private street in a St. Louis historic district where they live, have been involved in a three-year legal dispute over a small piece of land in the neighborhood. The McCloskeys claim they own it, but the trustees say it belongs to the neighborhood.

Mark McCloskey said in an affidavit that he has defended the patch previously by pointing a gun at a neighbor who tried to cut through it.

## Man charged in Florida church arson attack

Associated Press

OCALA, Fla. — A man accused of setting a Florida church on fire was being held without bail Sunday on charges that include attempted second-degree murder and arson.

The Marion County Sheriff's Office charged Steven Shields, 23, on Saturday, hours after detectives say he plowed a minivan through the front door of Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Ocala,

doused the foyer with gasoline and set it on fire, causing extensive damage.

Several people were inside preparing for Mass when the attack occurred early Saturday, but no one was hurt.

According to court documents, Shields told detectives he is mentally ill but had stopped taking his medication, the Ocala Star-Banner reported.

Shields told detectives what he did was "awesome" and he

smiled and laughed, the affidavit said. He told detectives he was "on a mission," called himself "king" and that he has problems with the Catholic Church and referenced passages in the Bible's Book of Revelations.

Services were being held Sunday in another part of the church.

The Marion County Public Defender's Office was closed Sunday and not accepting phone messages.

# Mueller defends Russia probe, says Stone remains felon

By ERIC TUCKER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former special counsel Robert Mueller sharply defended his investigation into ties between Russia and Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, writing in a newspaper opinion piece Sunday that the probe was of "paramount importance" and asserting that a Trump ally, Roger Stone, "remains a convicted felon, and rightly so" despite the president's decision to commute his prison sentence.

The op-ed in The Washington Post marked Mueller's first public statement on his investigation since his congressional appearance last July. It represented his firmest defense of the two-year probe whose results have come under attack and even been partially undone by the Trump administration, including the president's extraordinary move Friday evening to grant clemency to Stone just days before he was due to report to prison.

Mueller wrote that though he had intended for his team's work to speak for itself, he felt compelled to "respond both to broad claims that our investigation was illegitimate and our motives were improper, and to specific claims that Roger Stone was a victim of our office."

"The Russia investigation was

of paramount importance. Stone was prosecuted and convicted because he committed federal crimes," Mueller wrote.

Mueller did not specify who was making the claims, but it appeared to be an obvious reference to Trump, who as recently as Saturday derided the investigation as this "whole political witch hunt and the Mueller scan."

The op-ed chronicled the basis for the Stone prosecution, with Mueller recounting how Stone had not only tampered with a witness, but also lied repeatedly about his efforts to gain inside information about Democratic emails that Russian intelligence operatives stole and provided to WikiLeaks, which published them in the run-up to the election.

Stone was particularly central to the investigation, Mueller wrote, because he claimed to have inside knowledge about WikiLeaks' release of the emails and because he communicated during the campaign with people known to be Russian intelligence officers. He also updated members of the Trump campaign about the timing of the WikiLeaks releases, something that he denied.

He was one of six former Trump associates or advisers to be convicted in the Russia investigation.

## Trump criticizes border wall built by supporters

Associated Press

HOUSTON — President Donald Trump on Sunday criticized a privately built border wall in South Texas that's showing signs of erosion months after going up, saying it was "only done to make me look bad," even though the wall was built a months-long campaign by his supporters.

The group that raised money online for the wall promoted itself as supporting Trump during a government shutdown that started in December 2018 because Congress wouldn't fund Trump's demands for a border wall. Called "We Build the Wall," the group has raised more than \$25 million promoting itself as supporting the president.

The company that built the private section in January, North Dakota-based Fisher Industries, has since won a \$1.3 billion border wall contract from the federal government, the largest award to date.

The section in question is a roughly 3-mile fence of steel posts just 35 feet from the Rio Grande, the river that forms the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas. That's much closer to the river than the government ordinarily builds border barriers in South Texas because of concerns about erosion and flooding that could violate U.S. treaty obligations with Mexico.

Tommy Fisher, CEO of Fisher Industries, said Sunday that he thought the president "just got some misinformation on this stuff" and that he had "complete respect" for Trump.

Fisher acknowledged that there had been some erosion on the land in front of the fencing caused by rain and the natural flow of the river. He said his crews planned to install more organic material to fill the gaps or insert rock if erosion continues, but that other parts of the wall remained untouched.

## NATION

# Justice Department seeks to move forward with execution

By MICHAEL BALSAMO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department filed an emergency motion with a federal appeals court on Saturday seeking to move forward with the first federal execution in nearly two decades.

Daniel Lee, 47, had been scheduled to die by lethal injection on Monday at a federal prison in Indiana. He was convicted in Arkansas of the 1996 killings of gun dealer William Mueller, his wife, Nancy, and her 8-year-old daughter, Sarah Powell.

But Chief District Judge Jane Magnus-Stinson ruled Friday in Indiana that the execution would be put on hold because of concerns from the family of the victims about the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed more

than 130,000 people and is ravaging prisons nationwide.

The Justice Department is seeking to immediately overturn that ruling. In the emergency motion to the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, it argues that the judge's order "misconstrues both federal and state law and has no basis in equity" and asks the appeals court to permit the government to carry out the execution on Monday afternoon.

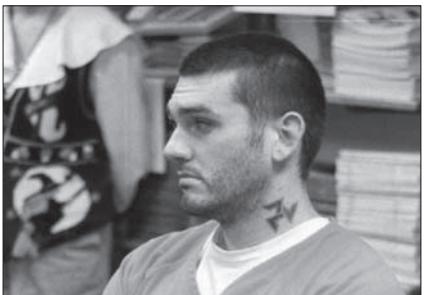
"The capital sentence at issue here — imposed for the murder of an eight-year-old and her parents during a robbery to fund a white supremacist movement — has been repeatedly upheld by federal courts, and the inmate's own efforts to halt its implementation have very recently been rejected by this Court and the Supreme

Court," prosecutors wrote in the filing.

In response, lawyers for the victims' family said the relatives "need no reminder of the gruesome details of those crimes."

The family argues it isn't trying to overturn Lee's death sentence but instead they "seek to exercise their lawful rights to attend the execution of Lee, so that they can be together at that moment in time as they grieve their losses," according to the filing. The family hopes there won't be an execution, ever. They have asked the Justice Department and President Donald Trump not to move forward with the execution and have long asked that he be given a life sentence instead.

"Plaintiffs face the unacceptable choice between exercising



DAN PIERCE, THE (RUSSELLVILLE, ARK.) COURIER/AP

**Daniel Lewis Lee waits for his 1997 arraignment hearing for murder in the Pope County Detention Center in Russellville, Ark. Family members of Lee's victims asked a federal judge to delay his execution, saying the pandemic makes it risky to travel to attend it.**

their right to witness the execution and risking exposure to a deadly disease," the lawyers wrote.

The decision to resume executions has been criticized as a dangerous and political move. Critics argue that the government is creating an unnecessary and manufactured urgency around a topic that isn't high on the list of American concerns right now.

## Early morning fire destroys much of Calif. historic church

By MARCIO SANCHEZ  
AND DAISY NGUYEN  
Associated Press

SAN GABRIEL, Calif. — A fire early Saturday destroyed the rooftop and most of the interior of a Catholic church in California that was undergoing renovation to mark its upcoming 250th anniversary celebration.

Fire alarms at the San Gabriel Mission rang around 4 a.m., and when firefighters arrived they saw smoke rising from the wooden rooftop in one corner of the historic structure, San Gabriel Fire Capt. Paul Negrete said.

He said firefighters entered the church and tried to beat back the flames, but they had to retreat when roofing and other structural materials began to fall.

After evacuating the church, the crew was joined by up to 50 firefighters who tried to douse water on the 50-foot-high structure from ladder trucks, he said.

"The roof is completely gone," the captain said. "The fire traversed the wood rapidly, the interior is pretty much destroyed up into the altar area."

The cause of the fire was under investigation, Negrete said. He said the recent toppling of monuments to Junipero Serra, the founder of the California mission system who has long been a symbol of oppression among Indigenous activists, will be a factor in the investigation.

"This will be another box that they're going to check off," he said.

Robert Barron, the auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, tweeted that he was "deeply troubled" by the fire as he awaits further information about its cause.



MARCOS SANCHEZ/AP

**The interior of the San Gabriel Mission is seen in the aftermath of a morning fire Saturday in San Gabriel, Calif. The fire destroyed the rooftop and most of the interior of the 249-year-old church that was undergoing renovation.**

The church was the fourth of a string of missions established across California by Serra during the era of Spanish colonization. The Franciscan priest has long been praised by the church for bringing Roman Catholicism to what is now the western United States, but critics highlight a darker side to his legacy. In converting Native Americans to Catholicism, they said he forced them to abandon their culture or face brutal punishment.

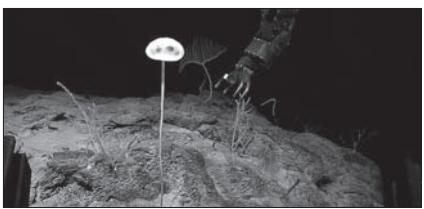
Depictions of Serra have been protested and vandalized over the years, and Pope Francis' decision in 2015 to elevate him to sainthood reopened old wounds.

"Whereas the California Catholic Conference of Bishops reminds us that the historical truth is that St. Serra repeatedly

pressed the Spanish authorities for better treatment of the Native American community, we recognize and understand that for some he has become a symbol of the dehumanization of the Native American community," said the church's pastor, Father John Molyneux, said in a statement.

The interior wall of the church was redone a week ago and crews had just finished installing the pews as part of a larger renovation of the property to mark the anniversary of the founding of the mission in 1771, said Terri Huerta, a spokeswoman for San Gabriel Mission.

She said the firefighters' aggressive stance and "a little bit of a miracle" kept the flames from reaching the altar.



NOAA/TNS

**The glass sponge, *Advhena magnifica*, prior to being collected in 2016 at a depth of 6,560 feet.**

## 'E.T.' sponge found on sea floor

By MARK PRICE  
*The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer*

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A marine creature that resembles the alien E.T. has been found growing in a prehistoric area of eastern Pacific seafloor rock.

The "E.T. sponge" has been classified as a new species and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Thursday as it announced the discovery.

The creature was found in an "extraordinary seascape" 7,875 feet down, where strange-looking creatures appeared to be growing from the rocky seafloor, NOAA says.

This "Forest of the Weird" — nearly 850 miles southwest of Hawaii — included an "alien-like community" of glass sponges that appeared to look back at the deep sea explorers with pink faces, NOAA reported.

"Rising high on a stalk, this sponge had a body with two large holes oddly reminiscent of the large eyes of the alien from the beloved movie, 'E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial,'" NOAA officials said in a release.

The first reported sighting of the glass sponge was in 2016, and credit for the find is going to scientist Cristiana Castello Branco, a postdoctoral researcher who analyzed a specimen's skeleton and realized it was unknown to science.

She officially named it *Advheona magnifica*, but everyone is calling it the "E.T. sponge."

"We usually try to associate the name to something unique about that species, or we can honor someone, the expedition name, or a locality," Branco said in a release.

"The shape of this sponge is reminiscent of an alien, like in the movies, with what looks like a long thin neck, an elongated head and huge eyes. *Advheona* from the Latin *advena*, which means alien. While we haven't 'officially' given it a common name in our paper, 'E.T. sponge' seems to fit."

Glass sponges are animals that typically attach themselves to hard surfaces, where they feast on "small bacteria and plankton," NOAA says.

A sample of the E.T. sponge was taken during a five-hour deep sea dive at the Pigafetta Seamount in the eastern Pacific, NOAA says.

The seamount is a flat-topped area of rock created by volcanic activity, NOAA reports. It is "quite old," dating to the Cretaceous Period of 65.5 to 145.5 million years ago.

## NATION



JESSICA HILL/AP

Family and friends who have lost loved ones to OxyContin and opioid overdoses leave pill bottles in protest outside the headquarters of Purdue Pharma in Stamford, Conn.

## Lawyers seek to halt Purdue Pharma political contributions

Associated Press

OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma should not be able to make any more political contributions without a judge's permission, lawyers for its creditors said in a court filing.

The issue came up this week after it was reported that the company, which has a long history of influencing policymakers, made contributions to national associations representing state attorneys general and governors.

The money was sent after Purdue entered bankruptcy protection last year in an effort to settle thousands of lawsuits accusing it of helping spark an opioid ad-

diction and overdose epidemic that has contributed to more than 400,000 deaths in the United States. State attorneys general are among those trying to negotiate a nationwide settlement.

The committee of creditors that asked for recipients to return the money to Purdue said the contributions represent a conflict.

"The Political Contributions — \$185,000 in donations to associations whose members include the very public servants with whom the Debtors are attempting to negotiate a consensual resolution of these cases — are precisely the sort of transaction that demand close scrutiny," they said.

Parts of the legal skirmish had been resolved by the time lawyers filed a motion Friday night. The filing asked a federal bankruptcy court judge to require Purdue to seek permission before making more contributions.

Purdue said it would stop giving money to the Democratic and Republican attorney general associations, and both of those groups agreed to return contributions made since late last year. The Republican group said it would send back \$60,000, while the Democratic organization said a check was already in the mail to return the \$25,000 it received.

## Trump, Biden win in Louisiana primary

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden have won Louisiana's twice-postponed presidential primary.

Trump faced no true challenger for the Republican nomination, but four other GOP contenders

ran against him on Louisiana's ballot Saturday.

Biden faced 13 other Democrats on the ballot, though he already had locked up enough delegates in other states to become the party's nominee.

Louisiana had one of the last presidential primaries in the country. It was delayed twice

from its original date of April 4 because of the coronavirus pandemic and was pushed back so many months that it became irrelevant to the selection the party nominees.

Voters had extra days of early voting and expanded mail-in balloting options because of the virus outbreak.

Jennifer Lawless, commonwealth professor of politics at the University of Virginia, said "there are still a lot of milestones that haven't been hit" by political campaigns, such as a Black man or woman directing — and winning — a presidential campaign. She said having diverse staff at lower levels can help increase the pool of future managers, finance clerks and others.

"It's all part of the pipeline,"

Lawless said.

Eric Rodriguez, senior vice president of policy and advocacy at UnidosUS, said the Biden team had more Latinos in senior positions than Trump.

"You need people from those communities to be able to make those connections," said Rodriguez, whose organization used to be called the National Council of La Raza.

The rival campaigns are about even on employing women, with females filling more than half of all job roles, and more than half of all senior positions.

The president's daughter-in-law, Lara Trump, who is white, former White House aide Mercedes Schlapp, who is Cuban American, and Katrina Piereson, who is Black and worked on Trump's 2016 campaign, are among the highest-profile senior female staffers working to help reelect him.

Biden senior adviser Symone Sanders, who is Black, is the campaign's highest-ranking person of color and, at 30, is the youngest member of his inner circle. He also recently brought on several African Americans who worked for President Barack Obama, including Karine Jean-Pierre, formerly an NBC News and MSNBC political analyst.

Jamal Brown, a spokesperson for Biden, said the former vice president's campaign reflects the "diversity, breadth and promise of America."

"He believes our democracy is strongest when people see themselves reflected in their government," added Brown, who is Black.

# Trump lags Biden on diversity of top campaign staff

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Amid a summer of racial unrest and calls for more diversity in leadership, President Donald Trump lags Democratic rival Joe Biden in the percentage of people of color on their campaign staffs, according to data the campaigns provided to The Associated Press.

Twenty-five percent of the Republican president's senior staff are nonwhite, compared to 36% of Biden's senior staff. Biden's overall campaign team is 35% nonwhite; Trump's campaign did not provide a comparable number.

And neither campaign provided racial breakdowns for their nonwhite staff, nor the total number of staffers who are on their payrolls, including senior staff.

Advocates for minority groups have said that staff diversity is necessary to ensure political candidates hear a full range of voices and viewpoints to help them understand the concerns of various communities and interest groups — especially at a time when racial injustice is front and center in the national conversation. And while Biden has an edge on Trump, there is plenty more to be done in presidential campaigns overall.

Jennifer Lawless, commonwealth professor of politics at the University of Virginia, said "there are still a lot of milestones that haven't been hit" by political campaigns, such as a Black man or woman directing — and winning — a presidential campaign. She said having diverse staff at lower levels can help increase the pool of future managers, finance clerks and others.

"It's all part of the pipeline,"

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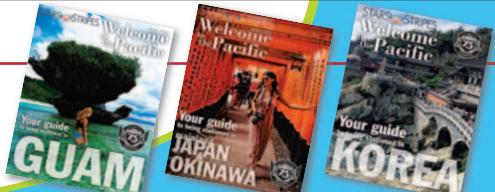
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## WORLD

# Iran: Poor communication partly to blame for downed jet

BY AMIR VAHDAT  
AND JON GAMBRELL  
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — A misaligned missile battery, miscommunication between troops and their commanders and a decision to fire without authorization all led to Iran's Revolutionary Guard shooting down a Ukrainian jetliner in January, killing all 176 people on board, a new report says.

The report released late Saturday by Iran's Civil Aviation Organization comes months after the Jan. 8 crash near Tehran. Authorities had initially denied responsibility, only changing course days later after Western nations presented extensive evidence that Iran had shot down the plane.

The report may signal a new phase in the investigation into the crash, as the aircraft's black box flight recorder is due to be sent

to Paris, where international investigators will finally be able to examine it.

The shootdown happened the same night Iran launched a ballistic missile attack targeting U.S. soldiers in Iraq, its response to the American drone strike that killed Gen. Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad on Jan. 3.

At the time, Iranian troops were bracing for a U.S. counterstrike and appear to have mistaken the

plane for a missile. The civil aviation report does not acknowledge that, only saying a change in the "alertness level of Iran's air defense" allowed previously scheduled air traffic to resume.

The report detailed a series of moments where the shootdown of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 could have been avoided.

The report said the surface-to-air missile battery that targeted

the Boeing 737-800 had been relocated and was not properly reoriented.

Those manning the missile battery could not communicate with their command center, they misidentified the civilian flight as a threat and opened fire twice without getting approval from ranking officials, the report said.

"If each had not arisen, the aircraft would not have been targeted," the report said.

## Victims of Bosnia's 1995 Srebrenica massacre remembered 25 years later

Associated Press

SREBRENICA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Virtually joined by world leaders, the survivors of Bosnia's 1995 Srebrenica massacre on Saturday remembered the victims of Europe's only acknowledged genocide since World War II and warned of the perpetrators' persistent refusal to fully acknowledge their responsibility.

Speaking at a commemoration ceremony for the thousands

of massacre victims, held in the memorial center and cemetery just outside Srebrenica, a top Bosnian official warned that the extent of the 1995 slaughter is still being systematically denied despite irrefutable evidence of what happened.

"I am calling on our friends from around the world to show, not just with words but also with actions, that they will not accept the denial of genocide and cel-

ebration of its perpetrators," said Seif Dzaferovic, the Bosnian Muslim member of the country's tripartite presidency.

In July 1995, at least 8,000 mostly Muslim men and boys were separated by Serb troops from their wives, mothers and sisters, chased through woods around Srebrenica and killed by those forces in what is considered the worst massacre on European soil since the Third Reich.



KEMAL SOFTIC/AP

Bosnians pray by the coffins of nine massacre victims Saturday in Potocari, near Srebrenica, Bosnia.

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Transportation

944

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# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Park officials kill bear suspected in break-in

**CO** ASPEN — Wildlife officials in Colorado killed a bear believed to have been involved in a home break-in and attack that injured the homeowner.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife said a team with tracking dogs located the bear on the backside of Aspen Mountain before tracking it to a mine shaft and killing it, The Aspen Times reported. DNA from the bear was sent to a lab to verify it was the same bear involved in the break-in.

The homeowner is undergoing surgery after a bear broke into his home through the front door and swiped a paw at the man, department officials said.

"The injuries are pretty significant lacerations to his face, neck and head," department spokesman Randy Hampton said. "We're worried about his eye and his ear."

## Kitten adopted after storm drain rescue

**NY** TERRYVILLE — Only eight lives left for this New York cat.

Police on Long Island rescued a black kitten that fell into a storm drain in Terryville.

A 911 caller spotted the animal, and Officer Michael Virtue of the Suffolk County Police Department climbed into the drain and brought the kitten to safety. The kitten's reversal in fortune continued when it was adopted by a local resident, police said.

## Yogurt store patron protests mask with gun

**AZ** YUMA — A Yuma man who was ejected from a frozen yogurt shop for not wearing a mask faces charges for pulling out a gun in response.

Yuma County Sheriff's officials said the incident happened when Steven Covington, 64, entered Tiki Hut Frozen Yogurt.

According to the staff, Covington was agitated when told to wear a face covering and gloves provided by the store. Covington then started dispensing frozen yogurt into his bare hands.

A worker escorted him out of the shop. Authorities said that's when Covington got a handgun from his car and followed the employee. The store was locked down but Covington allegedly pointed the gun at the employee and tried to get inside the store and a neighboring business.

He was booked into jail on suspicion of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, misconduct involving weapons and disorderly conduct.

## City ends penalties for marijuana possession

**MO** KANSAS CITY — Kansas City will no longer punish people for marijuana possession, effectively decriminalizing it throughout much of the city.

City council members voted 9-4 to strip the crime from the city code, The Kansas City Star



DON KNIGHT, THE (ANDERSON, IND.) HERALD-BULLETIN/AP

## In a Galaxie not so far away

Dennis Hayes sits in his new sign, a restored Ford Galaxie stock car, as it is hoisted into place on pillars 10 feet off the ground at his business, Vintage Wrench, west of Edgewood, Ind. There is no engine or transmission in the car, but it still weighs 3,000 pounds due to a steel plate attached to the bottom of the car and welded to the posts supporting it. Hayes knows exactly how much it weighs because the state needed to calculate wind shear for the sign before they would approve it.

reported.

The change does not legalize its recreational use or change Missouri law. Users can still be charged for possession by county prosecutors who decide to pursue those cases.

Kansas City residents had already voted in 2017 to eliminate jail time for possession of fewer than 35 grams of marijuana, limiting penalties to an ordinance violation and \$25 fine.

## Man jailed for threats to kill partygoers, kids

**FL** YULEE — A Florida man was arrested after calling a 911 dispatcher and threatening to kill people at a house party in his neighborhood, sheriff's officials said.

Anthony Ninhmam Schuler, 57, was charged with making threats to kill and with misuse of the 911 system, Nassau County Sheriff's officials said.

Schuler threatened to shoot up the party and "kill a bunch of children," The Florida Times-Union reported.

Deputies who went to the home found a large party of children and adults going on in the neighborhood. They later learned that the woman who had answered the door was the 911 caller's daughter.

They found Schuler in a bed-

## THE CENSUS

# 20

The number of months after the election that ballots from an Illinois sheriff election are being recounted. Tony Brown has been serving as sheriff of the county since defeating Jim Root, a Republican, by one vote out of nearly 40,000 cast in 2018. The recount, which could last weeks, was ordered by a judge as a compromise agreed to by both candidates after Root filed a legal challenge to the result, the Herald & Review reported. Ten election judges — five Republicans and five Democrats — are being paid \$10 an hour to examine the ballots by hand.

room upstairs. He was described as "very intoxicated."

## Ailing eastern black rhino euthanized at zoo

**IL** CHICAGO — An ailing eastern black rhino named Maku was euthanized at Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo after staff determined it was suffering from severe discomfort and reduced mobility, the zoo said.

Maku, 34, was thought to be the second oldest eastern black rhino male in North America, Chicago radio station WBHM reported.

The curator of mammals at the zoo, Mike Murray, said in a statement that staff will miss the rhino's "laid-back personality."

The zoo said Maku was so gentle that he would allow blood to be drawn during health checks and even let staff perform rhinoceros pedicures on his feet.

Maku, who arrived at the zoo in

2003, lived longer than most other eastern black rhinos. Median life expectancy for them is 19 years.

## Woman, child seriously injured by fireworks

**IL** CHICAGO — A woman and a child were seriously injured by exploding fireworks in Chicago amid a sharp rise in complaints about the pyrotechnic devices, according to fire department officials.

WLS-TV reported the woman, 26, and the child, 6, were taken to a nearby hospital and were listed in serious condition.

In a previous report, the TV station cited Chicago's Office of Emergency Management and Communications as saying there have been around 7,000 calls complaining about fireworks in the city from Jan. 1 to the end of June. During the same period last year, there were only around

850 such complaints.

Some Illinois residents travel across the border to buy fireworks in neighboring states where they are legal.

## Advocate for deaf on leave for frat affiliation

**MA** BOSTON — Massachusetts' chief advocate for the deaf was placed on leave after acknowledging he was a member of a now-suspended college fraternity known for wearing robes resembling those of the Ku Klux Klan and making Nazi-like salutes.

Republican Gov. Charlie Baker's administration said that Steven Florio, the commissioner of the state's Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, will remain on paid leave from his \$120,000 a year job pending the outcome of an internal investigation.

Florio recently acknowledged to staff members he was a member of Kappa Gamma Fraternity, which was suspended last month by Gallaudet University, a college in Washington, D.C., for the deaf and hard of hearing, the Boston Globe reported. Florio told staff in an email that he disavows his past affiliation with the fraternity.

From wire reports

# FACES



**"Stateless"** is a six-part drama that examines Australia's treatment of refugees and asylum seekers. Shown: Asher Keddie.

# Not just an American dilemma

Netflix series 'Stateless' tackles 'human drama' of immigration in Australia

By MEREDITH BLAKE

Los Angeles Times

Debates over immigration and national identity dominate the political discourse in the Trump-era United States, but many Americans may be unaware that Australia has grappled with similar issues for decades.

That's about to change with the debut of "Stateless," a Netflix series co-created by Cate Blanchett that dives into her home country's treatment of refugees and asylum seekers.

The drama is set during the mid-nights, as wars in Iraq and Afghanistan sent thousands fleeing to other countries, including Australia, with the hopes of beginning a new life. The six-part series follows the unusual journey of Sofie (Yvonne Strahovski), an Australian flight attendant who gets involved in a cult, suffers breakdown and mistakenly winds up in an immigration detention center, where she claims to be a German tourist who overstayed her visa.

At the center — in a parched, economically depressed corner of South Australia — she is held along with hundreds of so-called UNCs (or unlawful noncitizens). These refugees include Amerer (Faysal Bazzi), an Afghan man hoping to reunite with his family after a traumatic separation. Outfitted in a silver wig and sequin gowns, Blanchett has a small role as Pat, the singing-and-dancing wife of a charismatic cult leader played by Dominic West.

As implausible as it may seem, Sofie's story is partially inspired by the case of Cornelius Rau, a white Australian woman who was held in an onshore detention center for several months and helped bring



Blanchett

attention to the country's severe immigration policies.

Blanchett created the series with Tony Ayres and Elise McCredie. Though "Stateless" deals with subjects that remain deeply polarizing in the U.S. and Australia — and are explored in greater depth in an accompanying podcast called "Post Play: Stateless" — Blanchett insists the series is "not a piece of agitprop."

"It's human drama. It's not just delivering some political message. It's asking more questions than it answers," says the two-time Oscar winner.

Blanchett and Ayres recently spoke via Zoom about the series and the difficult themes it explores.

**Los Angeles Times:** What made you want to get involved behind the scenes on this series? Is producing satisfying in a way that performing isn't?

**Blanchett:** The producers I truly admire are infinitely inventive. Some of them also happen to be performers or directors, as these skill sets are often interlinked. For me, it's about balancing the pragmatic with the creative. Sometimes I am compelled to be involved in a project, but know that to shoehorn myself artificially as an actor into that project would capsizes or pervert the material. Then also knowing that if one is not in it, that certain financiers may not be willing to take a risk on the material. Some of the most fulfilling creative experiences I've had, the most fascinating conversations, have been in and around facilitating the work of others. It's never been about what role I play, more the quality of the conversation.

**The idea for this series originated with a kitchen-table conversation back in 2013. Can you tell me about that?**

**Blanchett:** We were thinking about telling stories that were elephants in the room, so to speak — those stories that everybody needed to talk about. Drama is the most inclusive way to have those conversations. It's the space for long-form empathetic examinations of quite com-

licated and confronting stories in any culture. Australia's treatment of refugees over the last 20 years was one of those subjects that wasn't being discussed. So we all wanted to find a way we could bring it back into the national conversation in a nonpartisan-based, inclusive way.

**Can you talk about the inspiration for this series and how you decided on setting it in the recent past — rather than the present day?**

**Blanchett:** We decided that the best period to tell our story was looking at when Australia still had on-shore detention so that we could understand the current iteration. There were stories of Australian citizens that had been mistakenly put in detention, there were stories of people breaking out of detention, there were stories of Australian citizens who were standing up for refugees, and there were a lot of stories of trauma.

**Why make Sofie one of the central characters? As a white Australian, she is not representative of the people who end up in detention.**

**Blanchett:** We wanted to find a window for people who hadn't had interface with the refugee experience, to ask themselves, "What if it was my sister? What if it was me, what if it was my daughter who fell through the cracks as our character Sophie did in the mental health system, the judicial system and the immigration system and ended up by complete mistake inside one of these detention centers?" We felt like we could only create that through a middle-class, white Australian character. That was very deliberate.

**Aires:** The choice to enter the story with a white Australian woman was a form of Trojan horse. It was strategic: Who can we give to an audience that they can connect to? I think that Yvonne in particular is so extraordinarily empathetic in her performance. She brings us into the story, but then we hopefully will experience other people's dramas within that, and the dramas of people who are not white.

## 'The Crown' will have a Season 6

From wire reports

Netflix, which said in January that its hit series "The Crown" would run only five seasons, announced July 9 that the story of Britain's royal family would include a Season 6 after all.

Alas, the show won't cover more royal ground in six seasons than it had planned to cover in five.

"As we started to discuss the story lines for Series 5, it soon became clear that in order to do justice to the richness and complexity of the story we should go back to the original plan and do six seasons," writer-creator-executive producer Peter Morgan said in a statement.

"To be clear, Series 6 will not bring us any closer to present day; it will simply enable us to cover the same period in greater detail," he added.

In other words, they are not going to tackle Megxit.

"So to summarise — we'll have one more season with Queen Olivia Colman, before she passes the crown to Imelda Staunton," the streaming service said July 9 in a tweet. "We're just half way through! Lovely."

## Rare Cannonball Adderley 1966 concerts going digital

A rare collection of previously unissued recordings by legendary jazz saxophonist Cannonball Adderley is becoming more accessible thanks to two small jazz labels seeking to keep jazz history alive.

Vancouver, Canada-based Cellar Music Group's imprint Reel to Real and New York distributor la reserve records were scheduled July 10 to release a digital version of Adderley performing at Seattle's Penthouse jazz club.

"Cannonball Adderley's Swingin' in Seattle: Live at the Penthouse" features the jazz great's quintet captured live on radio in 1965 and 1967 over four performances. For decades, the recordings sat largely unheard in archives until Canadian saxophonist and Cellar Music Group founder Cory Weeds found and about them.

Weeds told The Associated Press in an interview last week that producers wanted the public to hear the performances and sought to include as much of the recording as possible since it showed Adderley's essence at the height of his career.

"It caught Cannonball and the band on fire," said Weeds, who served as the collection's executive producer. "The sound quality is incredible. And you hear the banter, the humor, and the emotion."

Weeds said producers also wanted to add the stories Adderley told between sets.

A previous version of the collection was released in 2018 on a limited vinyl edition, but the digital release will contain more material, Weeds said.

## Rolling Stones to release unheard tracks from 1973

The Rolling Stones will release a new version of their 1973 album "Goats Head Soup" featuring three unheard tracks, including one featuring Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page.

The band announced on July 9 that the release on Sept. 4 will include a four-disc CD and vinyl box set editions that includes 10 bonus tracks, including outtakes and alternative versions.

Page appears on a song called "Scarlet," and the Stones also released a video for one of the unheard songs, called "Cross Cross."

"Goats Head Soup" features one of the band's well-known acoustic ballads, "Angie."



## OPINION

## Vindman's retirement hurts military effectiveness

BY CARRIE A. LEE

*Special to The Washington Post*

**O**n Wednesday, Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman announced he would be retiring from the U.S. Army as a result of retaliation from the White House and senior officials in the Department of Defense.

Last fall, Vindman testified under subpoena during the House's impeachment hearings about his concerns regarding President Donald Trump's phone call to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. His testimony set up a civil-military conflict that pitted the president against a mid-level officer and Congress.

While defense officials had promised there would be no retaliation, Vindman was told by senior Army officials that there were "forces working against his advancement within the military" as a result of his testimony.

The Vindman endgame is part of a larger pattern of civil-military conflict in the Trump administration. Trump himself has signed campaign paraphernalia on military bases, excoriated his political opponents in speeches to the troops, referred to senior military officers as "my generals," intervened in matters of military justice, and advocated for using the military against protesters — to name just a few.

Each incident might appear hardly noteworthy for civil-military relations, as I have argued before. But taken together, the regular politicization of military affairs by a sitting president can have important and negative consequences on civil-military relations and the ability of the armed forces to recruit, retain and fight effectively in the future. Here's how.

#### ■ Politicization inhibits the military's ability to promote top talent.

In 2018 Vindman joined the National Security Council, an assignment reserved for the Army's top-performing and most promising officers. His scheduled follow-on assignment to attend the National War College suggests the Army once expected him to go on to senior leadership positions.

But his testimony last fall angered many Republicans and appears to have effectively ended a once-promising career — much to the dismay of prominent voices in civilian-military relations.

Of course, many appointments to top military posts are political — subject to presidential and congressional preferences, among other factors. But the interference in Vindman's career advancement is unusual precisely because he is a mid-level officer in the midst of an expected promotion, and may undermine the pipeline of military talent flowing to the top.

#### ■ Politicization degrades command structures.

Politicization of the military by civilians can also negatively affect how military officers interact with one another and create a gap between senior and mid-level officers. This gap can then contribute to a pervasive attitude that mid-level officers cannot give bad or unflattering news to their commanders. Indeed, retired Adm. Mike Mullen's biggest concern this spring — when the administration was accused of silencing Navy Capt. Brett Crozier's concerns about the coronavirus — was that it "significantly negatively impacts the willingness of commanders to speak truth to power."

While Secretary of Defense Mark Esper had publicly said Vindman would not be punished, it appears senior Army officers felt differently, suggesting he needed a "rehabilitative assignment" after his year at the National War College.

What's more, since the Fat Leonard scandal, two collisions involving separate Navy ships and the Crozier affair, the military has been consumed by accusations that it suffers from a crisis in trust and confidence. Political retaliatory against low-ranking officers has, according to some reports, become expected, and sends a strong signal to emerging senior leaders about what kind of behavior is rewarded.

The response to overt politicization among subordinates is also predictable: Morale declines as troops feel abandoned by their senior leadership. We saw this in



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

**Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman is sworn in to testify before the House Intelligence Committee on Nov. 19.**

March after the relief of Crozier — morale among sailors on the USS Theodore Roosevelt was reported to be "in the toilet" after the dismissal of a beloved skipper for apparently political reasons.

All of this is problematic because research shows one of the biggest advantages that democracies have during war is the initiative and leadership of their officers. Politicization robs democracies of some of their warfighting advantage.

#### ■ Politicization compromises the military's relationship with society.

When the armed forces appear to serve the political preferences of a single party, they lose recruits, legitimacy and the popular support necessary to maintain a large force that projects power around the world.

When civilian leaders inject partisan politics into military affairs, it undermines the military's ability to recruit and retain from all cross-sections of society. Military volunteers already come disproportionately from the South and legacy military families, and surveys also show military members more openly identify as (Repub-

lican) partisans than they did previously.

Such concerns explain the military's fierce reaction in June when Trump used National Guard forces to disperse peaceful protesters near the White House for a presidential photo op in front of St. John's Church. Over a dozen retired general officers decried the politicization of the military — including former Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis, Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, later apologized for joining the photo op, citing concern about "the role of the military in civil society."

#### ■ Politicization undermines civilian control and military effectiveness.

When civilian leaders inject partisan politics into military affairs, civil-military conflict becomes much more likely. Military leaders feel forced to push back against civilian leaders, and can become resentful and distrustful of the president's orders and intentions. This undermines civilian control and jeopardizes the ability of the president to wage war on behalf of the nation.

Even when civilians don't directly order an action, military leaders make decisions anticipating political needs, a phenomenon that I call "indirect politicization." This form of politicization is particularly damaging because it compromises the recommendations civilians receive from their military advisers. This significantly reduces civilian leaders' options as well as military effectiveness, since officers may adjust operations and tactics to conform to domestic politics rather than the rhythm of war.

Vindman's early retirement is yet another signal that civil-military relations in the U.S. are becoming increasingly politicized. While Vindman is only one officer, his departure reflects trends that will have an impact on military recruitment, retention and effectiveness.

Carrie A. Lee is an assistant professor at the U.S. Air War College. Opinions and conclusions expressed in this piece are the author's own and not the official position of any branch of the U.S. government, U.S. Air Force, or Air War College.

## Fund efforts to combat COVID-19-driven suicide, overdose

BY ANDY KELLER  
AND ANTHONY M. HASSAN  
*Special to Stars and Stripes*

**P**oliticians continue to present a false choice between the health pandemics unleashed by COVID-19, arguing that we must either fight the virus or stem the mental health fallout triggered by record unemployment and strict lockdowns. Our modeling warns that tens of thousands more Americans could lose their lives from suicide and overdose, including thousands more military veterans, if our leaders fail to fight both fronts of this battle.

The mental health and addiction front has been visible for months. A Cohen Veterans Network survey in April found that nine in 10 Americans believed the pandemic made access to mental health care more important. Later in April, the Meadows Institute projected that — based on what happened following the 2008 recession — for every 5% increase in unemployment, America could lose 4,000 more people to suicide and 4,800 to overdose each year. A deeper recession on par with the Great Depression — which seems more possible if the virus again spirals out of control — could lead to 40,000 in combined lives lost.

While unemployment-driven suicide and overdose mortality projections have been

criticized because rates of death do not go down when employment improves, unfortunately the effects of toxic stress and trauma generally on health — and on suicide specifically — are not bidirectional. As is the case with smoking and lung cancer, as well as combat and post-traumatic stress, illness can still manifest even after the smoker quits or the veteran returns home.

While the potential mental health and addiction risks related to COVID-19 have been brought to national attention, policymakers have yet to invest in efforts to prevent suicide and overdose deaths proportionate to their efforts to fight the virus. Trillions of dollars have been invested by Congress to respond to COVID-19, yet no legislation to date supports capacity ramp-ups to prevent suicide and overdose.

Future action looks inadequate, as well. The House's HEROES Act dedicates only just over \$1 billion for new mental health and addiction needs for every \$1 trillion already spent on COVID-19. Out of this, only \$25 million is set aside for suicide response, with nothing dedicated to Americans at higher risk, such as military veterans.

To highlight the risks posed to veterans and — more importantly — the need to ramp up effective care to mitigate these risks, we collaborated to extend our modeling to veterans. Our new study found that

for every 5% increase in unemployment, over 500 additional U.S. veteran lives could be lost to suicide annually, and 20,000 more could suffer from substance use disorders.

Unlike COVID-19, for which we lack effective treatments, the only lack for veterans and other Americans at risk for suicide and overdose is the will to act. Congress and the Trump administration have acted effectively in the past, coming together to blunt rising opioid deaths. But total deaths from overdose and suicide topped 120,000 last year and risk crossing the 160,000-mark due to COVID-19 without action equal to the challenge.

The administration's existing plan for veterans is a good start. This past June, the administration released its nationwide plan to reduce veteran suicide through the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS). Fortifying that plan with \$1 billion in more spending could expand needed community options for the 11 million veterans not receiving care from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

There are also proven treatments available for Americans more broadly. In April, the American Psychiatric Association offered a bold plan to invest \$10 billion over five years to fight depression and addiction in primary care. It is backed by groups

representing America's leading employers and is already paid for by Medicare and most commercial insurance plans, but it is not yet available in most health systems.

As Congress considers future COVID-19 bills, it should invest in the mental health of Americans on par with the other health effects of the virus. Prior to COVID-19, suicide and overdose took the lives of over 120,000 Americans, including 10,000 veterans, each year. Millions more suffered lost productivity and health costs exceeding \$200 billion a year.

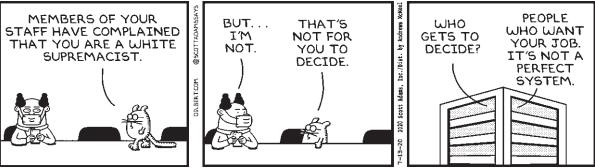
We believe that America can fight both the virus and its emotional consequences. Absent serious action, over 100,000 veterans and over 1 million Americans will lose their lives in the next decade. It is not yet too late for them, and we choose now to take action to provide accessible mental health care for all, particularly those who have already sacrificed so much for our country.

Andy Keller is president and CEO of Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute in Texas, where he holds the Sam M. Walton Endowed Chair. Anthony M. Hassan is president and CEO of Cohen Veterans Network, Jennifer Gonzalez and Timothy Dittmer, of the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, led the modeling studies referenced within this column, and Carl Castro, of the University of California and an Army veteran, collaborated with them on the modeling for military veterans.

Frazz



Dilbert



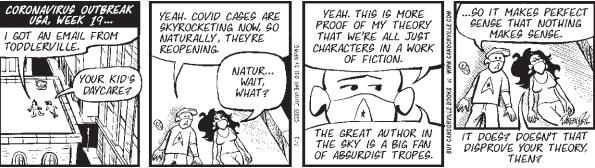
Pearls Before Swine



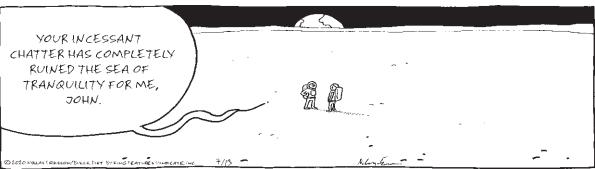
Non Sequitur



Candorville



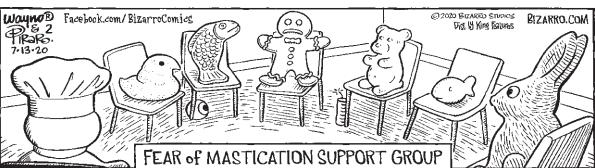
Carpe Diem



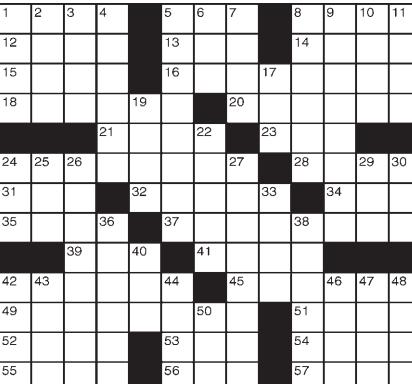
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## ACROSS

56 Pigs' digs  
57 Atlas pages  
26 Switchboard worker  
27 Sum total  
29 "How adorable!"

## DOWN

1 Rabbit's title  
2 Oscar-winner Moreno  
3 Craving  
4 Capital of Iran  
5 "Jump" band  
6 "— had it!"  
7 Bryn —  
8 Ointments  
9 Tot's train  
10 Out of control  
11 Eliot's "Adam —"  
12 Ceremony  
13 Actress Gardner  
14 Words said with a sigh  
15 Engrave  
16 Group of fresh recruits  
18 Gung-ho  
20 Take back  
21 Winged  
23 Xmas month  
24 Bright color  
28 Persian bigwig  
31 Strike caller  
32 Cathartic drug  
34 Have debts  
35 Yuletide tune  
37 Pecan-like color  
39 Abolish  
41 Heap  
42 Ate from a pasture  
45 Night flight  
49 Attention- getting phrase  
51 Mountain ht.  
52 Latin love  
53 Bumped into  
54 Fashion magazine  
55 City district

## Answer to Previous Puzzle

H	I	J	A	B	B	L	O	T	T
M	E	D	U	S	O	U	T	R	U
I	R	E	N	I	C	E	X	C	I
L	E	A	K	R	A	U	S	S	U
E	M	T	C	U	R	D	S	P	O
T	E	R	R	B	R	A	H	W	A
E	G	A	D	S	A	I	L	S	R
N	A	M	I	R	I	R	I	S	I
P	A	S	A	N	D	Y	A	I	M
A	L	E	P	P	O	C	O	N	S
N	E	P	A	L	I	O	L	D	S
T	E	T	H	E	R	W	E	S	T

7-13

## CRYPTOQUIP

Z L G X   N R J L Z   N   A E K J Z   H C J

Y N W X   D X P X S N K   Y E D Z N B X D

I S J Y   Z C X   U J U B A E Z :   " E

D C J L K W   C N P X   I K J H G   R X Z Z X S . "

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHAT MIGHT SOMEONE CALL A CRIMINAL WHO ALSO HAPPENS TO BE A TORTIONIST? OFFENDER BENDER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals P



## MILITARY MATTERS



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## Deals

## Saturday's transactions

**BASEBALL**  
Major League Baseball  
American League  
**KANSAS CITY ROYALS** — Placed C Cam Gallagher on the 10-day IL.

**SOFTBALL**  
**KANSAS CITY BRAVES** — Agreed to transfer D Gail Hartman to Budapest Honved FC.

**COLLEGE**  
**DUKE** — Named Kara Lawson head women's basketball coach.

## Auto racing

## Buckle Up In Your Truck 225

**Sunday**  
At Kentucky Speedway  
Sparta, Ky.  
Lap length: 1.50 miles  
(Stateline) 1.50 miles

(1) (8) Sheldon Creed, Chevrolet, 71 laps, 58 points.

(2) (10) Matt Crafton, Ford, 71, 34.

(3) (14) Matt Crafton, Ford, 71, 42.

(4) (11) Johnny Sauter, Ford, 71, 30.

(5) (13) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 71, 46.

(6) (4) Christian Eckes, Toyota, 71, 43.

(7) (2) Jeb Burton, Chevrolet, 71, 44.

(8) (12) Donny Schatz, Chevrolet, 71, 27.

(9) (22) Brennan Poole, Toyota, 71, 6.

(10) (21) Tanner Gray, Ford, 71, 30.

(11) (9) Ted Gillingard, Ford, 71, 33.

(12) (7) Grant Enfinger, Ford, 71, 29.

(13) (1) Raphael Lessard, Toyota, 71, 24.

(14) (16) Matt DiBenedetto, Toyota, 71, 14.

(15) (12) Stewart Friesen, Toyota, 71, 22.

(16) (3) Matt Andretti, Chevrolet, 71, 27.

(17) (23) Brennan Poole, Toyota, 71, 6.

(18) (37) Parker Kligerman, Toyota, 71, 19.

(19) (16) Ty Majeski, Chevrolet, 71, 18.

(20) (27) Austin Wayne Self, Chevrolet, 71, 19.

(21) (25) Tate Fogleman, Chevrolet, 71, 16.

(22) (10) Chandler Smith, Toyota, 71, 15.

(23) (30) Cory Roper, Ford, 71, 14.

(24) (28) Jordan Anderson, Chevrolet, 71, 13.

(25) (23) Angelo Ruchi, Toyota, 71, 12.

(26) (31) Clay Griffith, Toyota, 71, 11.

(27) (29) Matt DiBenedetto, Toyota, 71, 10.

(28) (29) Dawson Cramer, Chevrolet, 70, 9.

(29) (15) Natalie Decker, Chevrolet, 70, 8.

(30) (32) Matt DiBenedetto, Toyota, 70, 5.

(31) (19) Chase Purdy, Chevrolet, 70, 6.

(32) (36) Ray Ciccarelli, Chevrolet, 70, 5.

(33) (21) Matt DiBenedetto, Toyota, 70, 5.

(34) (22) Korbin Forristor, Toyota, 69, 63.

(35) (4) Timmy Vautin, Chevrolet, hand-drawn.

(36) (40) Trey Hutchens III, Chevrolet, accident, 50, 5.

(37) (35) Jennifer Jo Cobb, Chevrolet, accident, 48, 5.

(38) (29) Spencer Boyd, Chevrolet, 46, 5.

(39) (30) Codie Rohrbaugh, Chevrolet, accident, 13, 5.

(40) (38) Norrie Benning, Chevrolet, engine, 43, 5.

Race Statistics were not immediately available.

## Golf

## Workday Charity Open

PBA Tour  
Saturday  
At Muirfield Village Golf Club  
Columbus, Ohio  
Prizes \$6 million  
Yardage: 7,456; Par: 72  
Third Round

Justin Thomas  
Viktor Hovland  
Jordan Spieth

Sam Burns  
Kevin Streelman  
John Huh

Jerry Kelly  
Ryan Palmer  
Xander Schauffele

Sam Ryder  
Steve Stricker  
Zach Johnson

Charley Hoffman  
Jordan Spieth

Jason Day  
Brendan Steele

Bryson DeChambeau  
Talor Gooch

Henrik Norlander  
Matt Kuchar

Jerry Kelly  
Jordan Spieth

Thomas Bjørn  
Matt Kuchar

David Lingmerth  
Jordan Spieth

Tommy Fleetwood  
Jordan Spieth

Jon Rahm  
Jordan Spieth

Jon Rahm  
Jordan Spieth

Jordan Spieth  
Jordan Spieth

## MLB



KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI/AP

Cubs manager David Ross gestures during practice Friday at Wrigley Field in Chicago. As a player, Ross helped the Cubs capture their first championship in 108 years in 2016. He's counting on relationships with teammates from that team like Kris Bryant and Anthony Rizzo to provide clout in the clubhouse.

## Mix: New managers scrambling

## FROM BACK PAGE

team in name only.

It's a path David Ross of the Cubs, Luis Rojas of the Mets and Jayce Tingler of the Padres are all trying to figure out.

Shelton would crash weekly Zoom meetings with the starting rotation each Wednesday, laughingly suggesting he did it to give him an excuse to get out of teaching his daughter fourth-grade math. He'd touch base frequently over the phone. Still, it's not the same as being together physically. That's what makes Shelton's informal roaming so important, particularly during a year unlike any other.

There's the ongoing fight with the spread of the coronavirus, the heightened sensitivity to social justice in the wake of the death of George Floyd while in police custody. And the undercurrent of a looming labor fight between players and owners and a slew of rule changes.

Navigating a way forward given the current environment is tough enough for established managers, let alone guys who are still finding their footing in their new gig. The decidedly laid back, '90s alternative rock-loving Shelton presses on by focusing on empathy.

"I just (want) to make sure that I'm talking to them, I'm aware of what they're going through," Shelton said. "It's not just baseball stuff, because we're dealing with a lot more ... It's just general conversations, communication. But try to at least get in front of everybody during the day."

Tingler made it a point to visit as many of his San Diego players as possible during the off-season. The 39-year-old even threw himself into a workout with star shortstop Manny Machado, tweaking a hamstring in the process. He

caught a bit of a break when many of the Padres got together informally before the season officially restarted.

"Just getting to connect with people and seeing them work on a daily basis has been a blessing," Tingler said. "Usually you get into the season and it's a complete whirlwind."

The whirlwind started in January for Rojas, who was abruptly promoted by New York less than a month before spring training started after the Mets fired Carlos Beltran for his role in the Houston Astros stealing scandal. While Rojas had plenty of institutional knowledge thanks to a long history of managing in the team's farm system before joining the big league club last year as a quality control coach, the shift in responsibilities left him scrambling.

The 38-year-old Rojas — the youngest manager in the majors — read a book by Duke basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski to help him prepare. His message for a team that expects to contend this season? I'm here for you at all times.

"That's one of my great values that I tell the guys: We have to overcommunicate," said Rojas, who can always call dad — former player and manager Felipe Alou — for advice in a pinch. "I mean, we call it that. Just to make sure that everyone knows what's going on and everyone knows what their role is and how things are and what to expect."

Even if that's easier said than done during a time when players have to abide by 100-plus pages of health protocol and spit copious amounts of saliva into a tube every other day as part of the COVID-19 test. Managers in 2020 find themselves equal parts instructor, confidant and amateur medical professional.

If there's a saving grace for the newcomers, it's that their more-established brethren are facing some of the same concerns for the first time. Cleveland's Terry Francona might have two World Series rings at home and nearly two decades on the bench under his belt, but he doesn't have a playbook on how to cope with the fallout of a pandemic.

Same for several big-name managers in new spots for the first time, with the Angels' Joe Maddon, the Phillies' Joe Girardi and the Royals' Mike Mathey among them.

"I think every manager right now has that same challenge, obviously to get the team prepared and to fulfill protocol, keep everyone healthy is the No. 1 priority," Rojas said.

Still, the playing field isn't quite level for all first-year managers. Ross earned the nickname "Grandpa Rossy" for helping the young Cubs capture their first championship in 108 years in 2016. Much of the core of that team — third baseman Kris Bryant and first baseman Anthony Rizzo chief among them — remains on the Northside, providing Ross with plenty of clout in the clubhouse the moment he became Chicago's manager last October.

"Having a little bit of background just eliminates some of the relationship stuff that you have to build when you don't know somebody," Ross said. "Some of the guys I'm new with, checking in a little bit more, beginning to know their personalities. I have to put a little more time into understanding how they think, their emotions when they're good (and) when they're bad and some of their history and talk to them before you give them some kind of hard truths that you might want to give them."

## Roundup

## Yanks' Chapman has virus; Astros cancel practice for 2nd time

Associated Press

HOUSTON — New York Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman became the latest high-profile player to test positive for the coronavirus, his diagnosis announced Saturday hours after the Houston Astros canceled another practice due to virus concerns.

In New York, manager Aaron Boone said Chapman wouldn't be "here for the foreseeable future." Boone said the left-handed reliever "overall was doing well" despite experiencing mild symptoms.

The Yankees are scheduled to start the virus-delayed season on July 23 at the World Series champion Washington Nationals. The AL East champs already were missing star infielder DJ LeMahieu and right-hander Luis Cessa, who both tested positive last week and are still isolating at home.

Boone wouldn't say whether Chapman had been at Yankee Stadium since throwing a bullpen session on Tuesday. He said the team had gone through contact tracing protocols, and no other players or personnel would be forced to isolate because of Chapman's positive test.

In Houston, the Astros canceled their workout after learning that a staff member could have been exposed to a person outside the organization with the coronavirus.

It's the second time this week the Astros have wiped out a practice session because of concerns about the pandemic. Houston also scrapped its Monday workout because of delays with testing results due to the holiday weekend, as did some other teams around the majors.

The cancellation came after All-Star third baseman Alex Bregman was held out of practice on Wednesday because of delays in receiving his test results.

Also testing positive was Kansas City backup catcher Cam Gallagher, who said he's asymptomatic, participated in an intrasquad game Friday before receiving his results Saturday.

**Gallo doesn't know:** A day after joining his team for workouts, Rangers outfielder Joey Gallo said that despite two positive tests, he isn't sure if he had the coronavirus.

His confusion stemmed from the fact that he didn't experience symptoms and also had multiple negative tests. Gallo said he planned to have a more extensive antibody test to be sure after a finger-prick test didn't indicate that he had COVID-19.

"It was a strange process to go through. There wasn't much anybody could have done because the test came up positive," Gallo said. "As of right now I am coming up negative and that's how I am hoping to stay the rest of the season."

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## NBA/AUTO RACING

# Popovich, James practice, set for restart in bubble

By TIM REYNOLDS  
Associated Press

Gregg Popovich fondly remembers his freshman year at the United States Air Force Academy, even though as a first-year cadet he was extremely limited in where he could go and what activities were allowed.

Lockdown at Walt Disney World, he said, reminded him of those days.

"But two days, anybody can do that," the San Antonio coach said Saturday.

He made it through that freshman year with ease, made it through the two days of in-room Disney quarantine as well, and now the longest-tenured and oldest active coach in the league is free to roam within the NBA bubble in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. That doesn't mean he didn't have reservations about being part of the NBA restart, given the ongoing issues of racial strife, social inequality and the coronavirus pandemic.

"If you're a thinking person, you're going to look at all sides of a situation," Popovich said. "And, especially being 71 years old, I thought, 'Is this where I want to spend a lot of my time, doing this, under these circumstances?'"

The answer was yes, and Popovich was running his first practice in more than four months Saturday as the Spurs began getting ready for a playoff push. When the season resumes July 30, San Antonio will be 12th in the Western Conference — only a half-game from ninth, where the Spurs would have to end with four games of the No. 8 spot to force their way into a play-in series.

"I honestly do believe — it's not just being a loyal soldier of the NBA, I've done my share of criticizing here and there when



MARCO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

**The Lakers' LeBron James, who took to the Disney practice courts for the first time Saturday, said the notion of not being part of the restart 'never crossed my mind.'**

I thought it was necessary — I don't know where else you would be as safe as we are right now," Popovich said.

LeBron James completely agrees with that sentiment.

Like the Spurs, the Los Angeles Lakers — the West leaders, with James leading the way back into title contention after six consecutive years of not even making the playoffs — took to the Disney practice courts for the first time Saturday. And James said the notion of not being part of the re-

start "never crossed my mind."

"This beautiful game of basketball, that brings so many people together, that brings happiness, that brings joy to the households, to so many families ... I'm happy to be a part of the biggest sports in the world," James said. "And I'm happy to have a platform where not only people will gain joy from the way I play the game, from the way our team plays the game, but also from what I'm able to do off the floor as well."

And on the health standpoint,



ERIC GAY/AP

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich hasn't forgotten his days as a freshman at the United States Air Force Academy and the experience of first-year cadets, called doolies. A couple days of lockdown at Walt Disney World brought back the memories of doolie life.

**'They took all precautionary reasons, measures to make sure that we as a league are as safe as we can be.'**

LeBron James  
Lakers star

James, like Popovich, raved about what NBA Commissioner Adam Silver and many others teamed together to make happen at Disney.

"They took all precautionary reasons, measures to make sure that we as a league are as safe as we can be," James said. "Obviously, in anything that you do, there can be things that could happen, but we will cross that line if it happens."

But Popovich's age called into question whether he should be at the restart.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says people 65 and over can be more vulnerable to the virus. The NBA has three head coaches who have celebrated that birthday; New Orleans' Alvin Gentry, 65; Houston's Mike D'Antoni, 69; and Popovich. Pelicans assistant Jeff Bzdelik, 67, and Los Angeles Lakers' assistant Lionel Hollins, 66, are not at Disney for the restart.

"We have special guidelines

and special things that we have to abide by," Spurs forward Rudy Gay said. "I think going into this bubble, everybody has to take the proper precautions and do their own part ... not just our team, but other teams. It's definitely serious. It's a serious issue. But we have to do the right thing."

Popovich points to rising virus numbers in Texas as proof that on the NBA campus, where players and coaches will be tested daily and exposure to the outside world is basically cut off, his health shouldn't be more at risk.

And to him, this is much more than basketball. The NBA restart will be about raising awareness on social issues and combating racism, and Popovich wants to be a big part of that conversation.

"If this bubble works, I'm safer here than I would be in Texas," Popovich said. "And since the decision was made to do this to start the season again, under these circumstances, with all the precautions, what a great opportunity."

## With fans back, Dixon claims third straight IndyCar win

By STEVE MEGARGEE  
Associated Press

ELKHART LAKE, Wis. — Winning an IndyCar race is nothing new for Scott Dixon, particularly this year.

But getting to celebrate as fans cheered him on for the first time all year made his victory Saturday at Road America particularly sweet.

"To see fans and hear fans cheering again was definitely a lot of fun," the 39-year-old New Zealander said after winning the opening race of a weekend doubleheader.

This marked the third IndyCar event of this pandemic-delayed season — Dixon has won all three of them — and the first to admit fans. Spectators hadn't been permitted for Dixon's previous victories in Fort Worth and Indianapolis.

Those fans got the opportunity to watch Dixon's most improbable triumph of the year.

Dixon was a season-low ninth in qualifying and well off the lead pack for the first half of the race, but took the lead for good shortly after a caution flag and beat Will Power by 2.5386 seconds. They were followed in order by Alex Palou, Ryan Hunter-Reay and Colton Herta.

"It was very unexpected," said Dixon, a five-time season champion for Chip Ganassi Racing.

Dixon is the first IndyCar driver to start a season with at least three consecutive victories since Sébastien Bourdais reeled off four straight to start the 2006 campaign. The only other drivers to open an IndyCar season with at least three straight victories are A.J. Foyt (seven in 1964) and Al Unser (three in 1971). Dixon is the first driver to win three straight races at any point in the season since Simon Pagenaud in 2016.

Saturday's race took drivers 55 laps around a course that's just over 4 miles long with 14 turns.

For much of the day, it looked as though Josef Newgarden would win at Road America for the second time in three years.

Newgarden earned the pole position earlier Saturday and was in command for the first half of this race until he stalled coming out of his second pit stop and fell back in the pack. He ended up 14th.

"Our day went from a great to pretty bad pretty quickly," Newgarden said. "But hey, that's racing. We just didn't take advantage of our opportunities today."

Power had a narrow lead over Dixon when Jack Harvey went off the track to produce a caution flag on the 38th lap. Dixon pulled ahead of Power coming out of the pits on the restart and stayed ahead after two more caution flags.

"Mishap in the pits, had a bit of an issue," Power said. "Had a wrong gear in the car, too, making it difficult to get a good restart to challenge Dixon."

The second caution flag came when

Conor Daly slid off the course after making contact with Pato O'Ward, knocking Daly out of the race and wrecking his Chevy. The final one came when Dalton Kellett went off course.

Dixon has 49 career victories, putting him behind only Foyt (67) and Mario Andretti (52).

Road America's setup made it an ideal venue for IndyCar to start allowing fans. The sprawling, 640-acre layout surrounding the course allows fans to practice social distancing and roam the property rather than crowding into a grandstand.

"Since we've been here before, we know there's plenty of room," said Jason Shelley of Indianapolis, who said he usually attends four or five IndyCar races each year. "It's kind of like watching a race in a state park, so this is the one place where I feel comfortable and safe because I know I can get away from people. I'm not going to be stacked on top of people. That's why we came."

## NHL



JOHN LOCHER/AP

Oilers defenseman Mike Green is opting out of playing in the resumption of the NHL season. Green, like Calgary defender Travis Hamonic, decided not to play for family reasons.

## Polak, Green among those who won't play

By STEPHEN WHYNOW  
Associated Press

Roman Polak of the Stars and Mike Green of the Oilers are opting out of playing, and Lightning captain Steven Stamkos will try to play after recovering from injury.

In the aftermath of a deal being struck to resume the NHL season on Aug. 1, Green, Polak and three other players joined Calgary defenseman Travis Hamonic in choosing not to participate in the expanded 24-team playoffs.

“Due to the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19 and after much consideration, I’ve decided for deep personal family health reasons not to participate in the return to play,” Green said in a statement. After a trade from Detroit, the defenseman played two games for Edmonton before injuring his right knee.

Boston’s Steven Kampfer, Montreal’s Karl Alzner and Vancouver’s Sven Baertschi also decided to opt out. Kampfer, who played 10 games with the Bruins this season, said his wife and son have a congenital defect that could cause complications with the virus and called it “one of the hardest decisions” he has had to make.

Polak is a pending free agent who last month agreed to a deal in his native Czech Republic next season and told reporters there he wasn’t planning on returning to the NHL if play resumed. Baertschi, who spent most of this season in the minors, is under contract through 2020-21.

“Sven informed us late yesterday that he has chosen to opt out of the NHL return to play program,” Canucks general manager Jim Benning said. “It was a difficult decision but ultimately one we respect and understand.”

The Lightning won’t have Stamkos at 100% for the opening of camp because of a lower-body injury, but they’re optimistic he’ll be ready when games get underway in early August. GM Julien BriseBois said Stamkos fully recovered from core muscle surgery in early March but was injured again during voluntary workouts.

“We don’t have a specific timeline for when he will be a full participant in camp, but we expect he will be ready in time for games,” BriseBois said. “He’s here, he’s skating; he’s been getting treatment, he’s been coming to Amalie (Arena) doing his dry land work. But he will not be a full participant on Day One of training camp.”

While Stamkos has a better chance of being ready



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

**The Stars’ Roman Polak is not reporting to the team for the restart of the NHL season for now. Boston’s Steven Kampfer, Montreal’s Karl Alzner and Vancouver’s Sven Baertschi also joined Calgary defender Travis Hamonic in choosing not to participate in the resumption of the season.**

for Tampa Bay’s next game than he would have after surgery if the playoffs had started in mid-April, the Flames will have to cope without Hamonic when they open their series against Winnipeg on Aug. 1.

Hamonic became the first player to publicly choose not to play in light of the coronavirus pandemic. Hamonic’s daughter was hospitalized last year with respiratory issues, and he and his wife also have a baby boy. Their health concerns, not the soon-to-be 30-year-old’s impending free agency, led him to opt out.

“I wish I could lace up my skates and be out there battling, blocking a shot and helping my team win, but my family has and always will come first,” Hamonic said. “Being my little boy’s dad every day is the most important job I have. I love this game and my team. This is a decision that is extremely hard for me to make.”

The Lightning already got a pandemic scare when three players and additional staff tested positive for the novel coronavirus last month. The positive test results forced the team to close its facilities for a brief period of time.

The Minnesota Wild, who face the Canucks in the qualifying round, ruled out defenseman Greg Pateryn indefinitely with an upper-body injury. NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly said Saturday the league will be taking over injury and illness disclosure from teams as a way of protecting player privacy.

“Medical privacy is important in this process,” Daly said. “Having said that, we understand as a league we have an obligation of some transparency with respect to the COVID virus in particular, so at least for now we’re going to maintain a policy where the league is announcing on basically league numbers and clubs are really prohibited from giving any information with respect to COVID test results, and, for purposes of making the system work, any injury information going forward.”

# League, players put differences on ice to resume

By JOHN WAWROW  
Associated Press

## Collaboration or bust.

Given the gravity of the new coronavirus pandemic and the abrupt decision to place the NHL season on pause in March, it didn’t take commissioner Gary Bettman and union chief Don Fehr long to realize they were going to have to work together if play was to resume any time soon.

Nearly four months to the day since the last puck dropped, the two sides put aside past differences to have a return-to-play plan in place, and the assurance of labor peace through September 2026 to go with it.

“When we got to March 12 and decided to take the pause, that began a period of perhaps unprecedented collaboration and problem solving,” Bettman said during a Zoom conference call with reporters Saturday, a day after the league and players ratified a 24-team expanded playoff set to begin Aug. 1, and a four-year extension of the collective bargaining agreement.

“It was a recognition by both sides that we were being confronted with an incredibly difficult, a novel, unprecedented situation. I believed we would get to this point because it was the right thing to do for the game and for everybody involved in the game.”

Fehr, the NHL Players’ Association executive director, not only agreed with Bettman, but went out of his way to credit the owners for the approach.

“I was approached well before the end of March that not only was this different, but it was being approached in a fundamentally different way. I always thought we would find a way to reach an agreement,” Fehr said.

The bond established between the two was apparent during the 55-minute session, with Fehr agreeing with Bettman and then acknowledging how unusual that was by saying: “I think that indicates something about the approach that was taken in these talks.”

Training camps are set to open Monday, which also represents the deadline for players to determine whether to opt out without penalty. If all goes as planned, teams will depart for their two respective hub cities, Toronto and Edmonton, Alberta, on July 26 to open a two-month playoff leading to the awarding of the Stanley Cup.

Many uncertainties remain, with Bettman and Fehr unable to provide definitive answers.

While acknowledging the likelihood of players testing positive for COVID-19, deputy commissioner Bill Daly was unable to say how

many players would have to do so for the league to postpone or cancel the playoffs altogether.

Bettman and Daly, who are based in New York, weren’t even sure if or when they could cross the border to personally attend games because those entering Canada are required to self-isolate for a 14-day period.

The only certainty is the NHL became North America’s latest professional sport to forge a path back to playing, but minus the public hiccups experienced by its counterparts.

Major League Baseball’s season was nearly scuttled before the two sides agreed to a 60-game format. Less than three weeks before NFL training camps are set to open, the league is experiencing push-back from its players on whether to play preseason games next month. Major League Soccer has had two teams already withdrawing from competition because of the number of players testing positive for the coronavirus.

And not only is hockey on the verge of returning, the CBA extension assures 12 straight years of labor peace, the NHL’s longest stretch since Bettman took over in 1993. During that time, play has been halted three times by lockouts, the last in 2012-13, when the season was shortened to 48 games.

“I think Don and I both recognize labor peace was something we couldn’t even quantify how important it was,” Bettman said. “But we both knew that for the business of the game to come back strong, there was enough disruption going on in the world that we didn’t have to add to it.”

Fehr said the months-long talks to reach a solution were a matter of perseverance.

“This is a very bad analogy, but you have to sort of navigate the kayak in a storm until the storm’s over, and then make sure the kayak isn’t full of holes so that you can go on and sail it in calmer seas,” Fehr said in a separate interview with The AP. “Or to put it another way there was never any pretense that this was business as usual.”

Owners benefit because they can generate much-needed revenue through sponsorships and advertising, even though games will be played in empty arenas.

Though players will likely lose a portion of their salaries for seasons to come to make up for 50-50 split of revenue, they benefit from a CBA that includes the possibility of returning to the Olympics, after the NHL opted out from the 2018 Winter Games in South Korea. The new labor agreement also addressed players’ demands to gain a post-career subsidy for health care.

# SPORTS



**Live from 'Fight Island'**

Usman retains against short-notice challenger Masvidal » MMA, Page 20

MLB



## Recipe for success

Team building poses unique challenge for new managers amid pandemic



BY WILL GRAVES  
Associated Press

Derek Shelton needs his freedom. Maybe now more than ever. Fortunately for the first-year Pittsburgh Pirates manager, bench coach Donnie Kelly made it a point to provide it.

Each day Kelly puts together a meticulous schedule designed to find a way for separate groups of players to get their work in during the most unusual training camp in major league history. Shelton's name isn't on it. While Shelton jokes it's because Kelly doesn't want

First-year managers like the Pittsburgh Pirates' Derek Shelton, seen above speaking to star first baseman Josh Bell, and the New York Mets' Luis Rojas, left, are scrambling to make up for time lost due to the pandemic and getting creative when it comes to getting a feel for their players.

him to "screw anything up," the truth is Shelton's omission is Kelly's way of doing his boss a favor.

Rather than be tied to being in a certain place at a certain time, Shelton instead can float from spot to spot as he tries to play catch up on the kind of relationship building that was supposed to happen organically during the languid days of spring training.

When Major League Baseball shut down for three-plus months in mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it forced Shelton and his fellow rookie managers to get creative when it came to forging the bonds necessary to become something more than a

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**Dixon relishes cheers on way to IndyCar win** » Page 22



PHOTOS BY GENE J. PUSKAR, TOP, AND ADAM HUNTER, LEFT/AP